

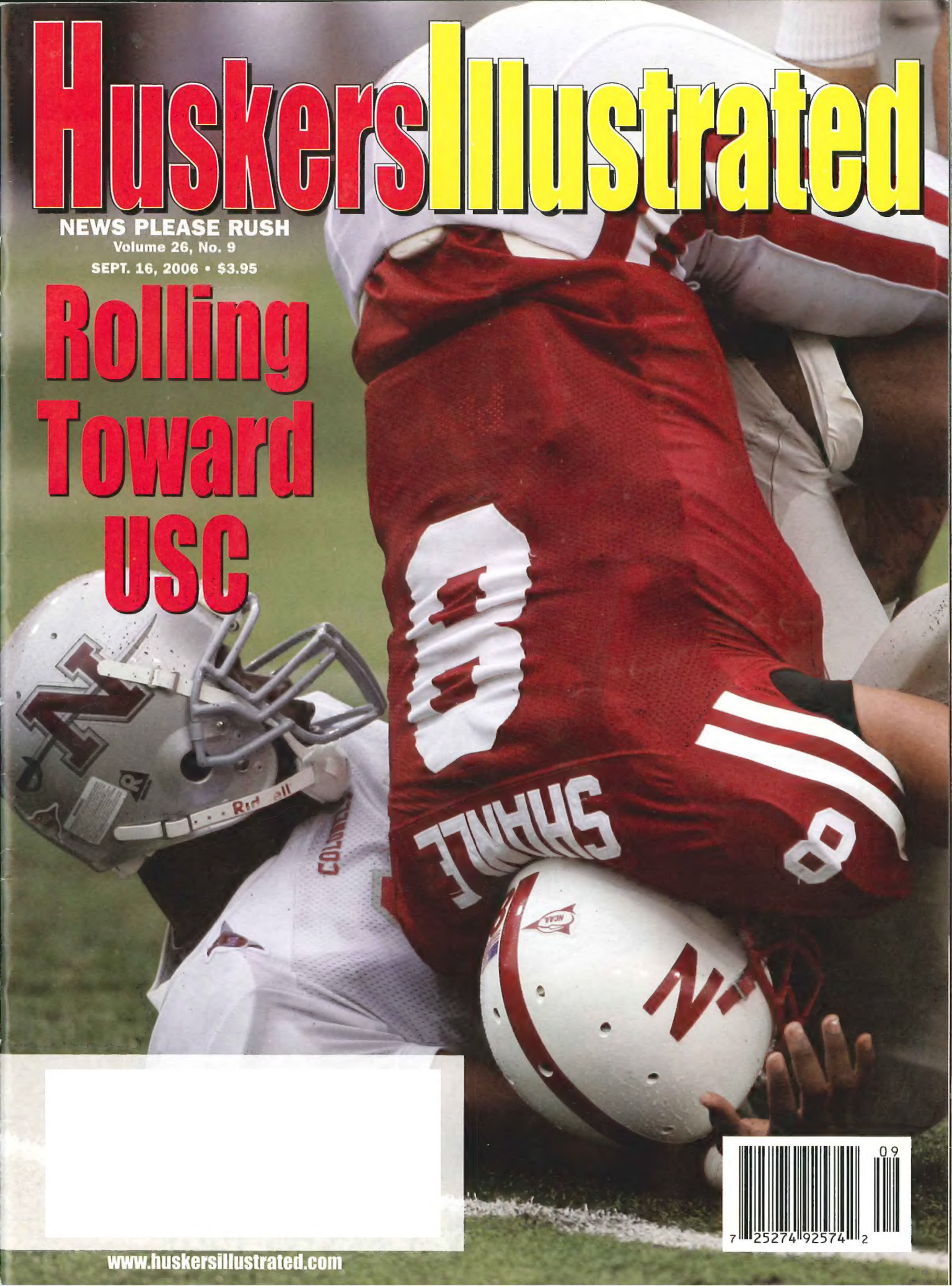
# Huskers Illustrated

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## Rolling Toward USC



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## Formidable Challenge

*Huskers show balance in rolling to easy victory in tuneup for mighty USC*



**Brian Hill**

YES, Southern California (the media guide reminds us "please do not use Southern Cal") is beatable at home.

The Trojans lost to Stanford 21-16 on Sept. 29, 2001. In fact, they also lost to Kansas State 10-6 three weeks earlier at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and would finish 6-6 in Pete Carroll's first season.

Since then, USC has won 27 straight at home. The most recent loss — 41-38 to Texas in the Rose Bowl thriller Jan. 4 — kept the Trojans from an unprecedented third consecutive national championship and snapped a 34-game winning streak. That streak started following a 34-31 triple-overtime loss at California Sept. 27, 2003.

That's the challenge facing Nebraska this week in its first road game of the 2006 season. Difficult? Yes. Impossible? Certainly not.

Just to show how strange things can happen in college football, take a look back to Division I-AA

Montana State's stunning 19-10 victory at Colorado Sept. 2. That same Montana State team would turn around and lose to Division II Chadron (Neb.) State 35-24 at home a week later.

Nebraska made sure it didn't get embarrassed by its I-AA opponent, methodically dispatching Nicholls State 56-7 to improve to 2-0 in its tuneup for the mighty Trojans.

You can read more about NU's second consecutive balanced effort and look ahead to the trip to Los Angeles in this issue of *Huskers Illustrated*.

Our "Recruiting Through the Years"

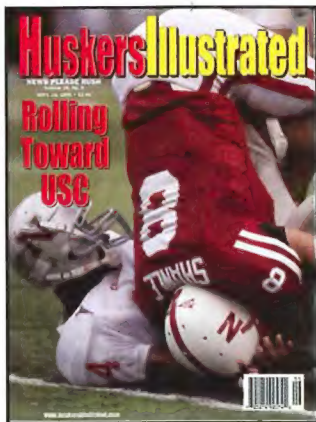
### ON THE COVER

Nebraska safety Andrew Shanle rolls up Nicholls State quarterback Chris Bunch during the Huskers' 56-7 victory. The Colonels attempted just three passes, and all fell incomplete. Cover photo by Scott Bruhn.

series continues, and the subject of this week's "Spotlight" is cornerback Titus Brothers, most remembered for helping on the tackle on the bizarre final play in the Alamo Bowl. The subject of "10 Questions" is junior college transfer Maurice Purify, one of a number of Californians on NU's roster.

Purify was on the receiving end of a 42-yard touchdown pass from Zac Taylor, one of a career-high four scoring tosses on a rainy day. He completed 19-of-23, including a streak of 12 straight after his first pass fell incomplete.

Meanwhile, Nicholls State, which featured the triple-option offense and lost its starting quarterback early in the game, attempted just three passes, completing none. The Colonels became the first opponent since 1992 to record zero passing yards.



That won't happen in the nationally televised (7 p.m. CDT ABC) matchup with USC. The Trojans, who had 11 players selected in the 2006 NFL Draft, are still loaded and feature junior wide receiver Dwayne Jarrett, who has

151 career catches and 29 touchdowns. Junior quarterback John David Booty, taking over for Matt Leinart, was 24-of-35 for 261 yards and three touchdowns as the Trojans opened the season with a 50-14 victory Sept. 2 at Arkansas. They were idle while Nebraska was tuning up against Nicholls State.

The Huskers had refused to talk about USC until the previous game was complete, so talk quickly turned to the challenge ahead.

"We haven't watched their film yet, but they run the same offense as we do, so that should help," linebacker Stewart Bradley said.

Coach Bill Callahan said he was looking forward to the game. "They're a team that we respect and are looking forward to playing. They're one of the best teams in college football, so this should be an excellent challenge for our football team." ■

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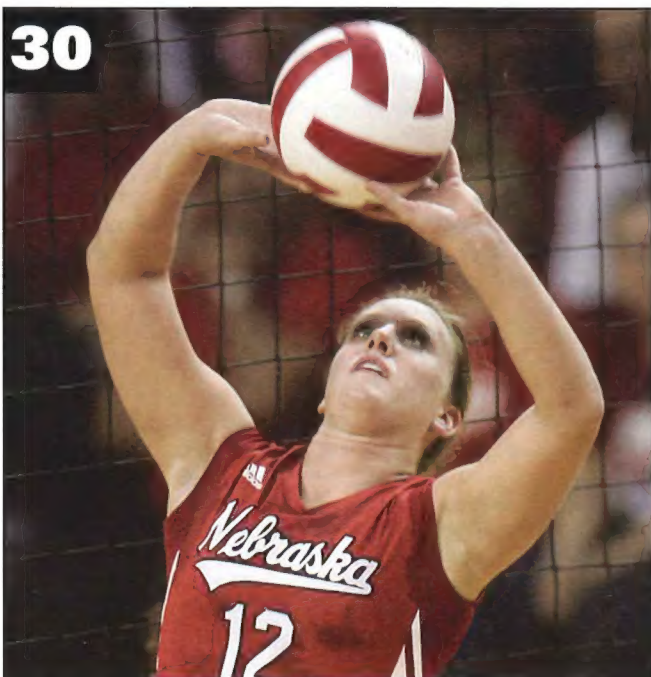
Bob Devaney got a bargain in LaVerne Allers. And if not for Allers' mom, Devaney might not have kept the All-America offensive guard in the program beyond his freshman year. By Mike Babcock

## NEXT ISSUE

The USC review/Troy preview edition will be mailed Sept. 18. Check for updates at [huskersillustrated.com](http://huskersillustrated.com).

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# 'These Guys Are Big'

Keith Williams, D.J. Jones and Cruz Barrett might not see much action this season. Or they might not see any action at all, preserving eligibility by redshirting. But the three freshmen are a big part of the future of Nebraska's offensive line, with an emphasis on big.

Williams is listed at 6-foot-5, 310 pounds; Jones at 6-5, 315; and Barrett at 6-4, 320.

"Those guys, when they line up, (when) they put their hand on the ground, and you watch them on a coach's film from behind, in the end zone, you go, 'Wow, these guys are big,' " coach Bill Callahan said near the end of training camp. "They're guys that look like seniors right now.

"They have that type of size and stature. So the future is really promising for those guys. It's exciting for all of us because that group will represent a line that will emerge in a few years."

And, he added, the line will be, "I think, pretty good."

Offensive linemen were a priority in the 2006 scholarship recruiting class, which included junior college transfer Carl Nicks as well as the three freshmen.

Nicks was recruited to play immediately, of course. Offensive line coach Dennis Wagner "told me from day one he was just going to put me in the fire," Nicks said in training camp. "I have to have a higher learning curve than everything else because he expects me to play so fast."

Nicks had to finish junior college coursework and didn't arrive at Nebraska until late July. The freshmen arrived earlier to begin preparing. Williams, who took summer school classes, adjusted quickly. "I'm loving it. I'm really loving it," he said. "There is no place like Nebraska."

He and Barrett began at guard, while Jones began at tackle. He quickly learned, as all freshmen do, that the game is much faster at the major college level. As a result, he couldn't rely on size and strength alone. "Technique is big because these d-ends, d-tackles are so fast," Williams said.

"High school is much slower. College is just bang, bang, bang."

Nebraska's offensive playbook also can be intimidating because of its size. Williams was asked his reaction when he first saw the thick playbook. "Oh boy, long season," he replied. "You have to study, study, study, put in long hours after practice, after meetings (in training camp)."

Getting the plays down was "pretty tough at first," said Jones.



Keith Williams



Cruz Barrett



D.J. Jones



Carl Nicks

Linemen have to react, "not think too much about the play and pretty much just come off the ball and make the block," Barrett said. And that comes with constant repetition.

He also had to adjust to guard, Barrett said, after playing tackle in high school. "You're down with the bigger guys, the tackles and nose tackles. You don't have the small speed-guys on the outside."

Initially, run blocking was more difficult than pass blocking, he said, although pass blocking at guard was different than what he was used to as a tackle, requiring different technique.

Jones agrees. Pass blocking is "a lot different. It's really all technique here," he said.

He is from Omaha Central High School, which is known as "I-back High" because of the outstanding running backs it has produced, among them pro football Hall of Famer Gale Sayers and former Cornhuskers Ahman Green (now with the Green Bay Packers), Calvin Jones and Joe Orduna.

Last season, however, the Eagles "threw a lot," D.J. Jones said.

He enjoys pass blocking, he said, "more than even run blocking. It seems better just to know that I'm protecting the quarterback; his safety's in my hands. I like to have that kind of control."

Jones grew up a Nebraska football fan, mainly because he couldn't avoid it. His dad is a "die-hard Husker fan," he said. "So that's all I watched (on TV) when I was younger, growing up."

He was about 9 years old when he attended his first game at Memorial Stadium, with his godmother and two godbrothers. He doesn't remember Nebraska's opponent, but "it was a real big deal with all those fans," he said. "I was like, 'Wow, what is this?' It was a big sight to see."

Now he's preparing to be a part of the spectacle, not this season necessarily but in the future. If he doesn't see action this season, "it's nobody's fault. It's just that I didn't play to my full potential," said Jones. "If it doesn't happen then I'll come back next year much stronger."

Williams said he came with the idea of playing right away, while Barrett said he was comfortable either way. "I'm just out here to contribute, so if they need me, I'll be there," he said.

"If not, I'll redshirt, get stronger and learn the playbook even more."

The future of the line looks not only big but bright. ■



# Quick Hits

## TOO TALL

Junior tight end Josh Mueller caught two passes against Louisiana Tech, doubling his career total. He had one reception, for 18 yards, against Kansas State last season after being shut out in nine games as a redshirted freshman. His third career catch was good for 6 yards and a touchdown.

The 6-foot-5, 265-pound Mueller played running back his junior year at Columbus (Neb.) Lakeview High School, after playing tight end as a sophomore. He was hampered by injuries as a senior.

He has gained "20 or 30 pounds" since coming to Nebraska, of course, but he was still big for a high school running back. He was recruited as a tight end — he didn't play much defense — and that was fine with him. He never cared much for running back. "That was too many shots in the legs, man. I was way too tall," he said. "They took my legs out, and I was down."

## GLAD TO BE BACK

Sophomore Matt Slauson played tackle last season and throughout spring practice. But when training camp began, offensive line coach Dennis Wagner told him he would be playing guard. Midway through camp, however, Wagner told him he would be moving back to tackle.

"I'm like, 'Tackle? OK, all right. Thank you,'" Slauson said, looking to the sky.

He has always played tackle, so "I'm comfortable with that," he said. "But I'm not against stepping in and learning something new. I mean, they tell me I'm built like a guard. I don't know if that's a good thing. I'm going to have to work on that, get in the gym a little bit. But I'm not against playing guard. Hell, move me to center if you want. Zac (Taylor) won't be able to see, but you can move me into there."

## WELCOME BACK

Left-handed pitcher Tony Watson and shortstop Ryan Wehrle are back at Nebraska, after being selected in the Major League draft in June. Watson was a 17th-round pick (No. 505 overall) of the Baltimore Orioles, while Wehrle was an 18th-round pick (534) of the Cincinnati Reds.

Watson was picked for the Cape Cod League all-star game this summer, pitching for Harwich. Right-handed pitcher Mike Nihsen and catcher Jeff Lanning were chosen for the Northwoods League all-star team. Nihsen, a redshirted freshman from Ralston, Neb., pitched for Duluth, while Lanning, a sophomore from Ankeny, Iowa, who backed up Jeff Christy last season, played for Waterloo.

The Cornhuskers, 42-17 and NCAA regional qualifiers last season, are scheduled to begin fall practice on Sept. 19, with the annual Red-White series tentatively slated for Oct. 11-13.

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Former Cornhusker Alex Gordon was chosen as the Texas League Player of the Year. The Kansas City Royals' second pick in the 2005 draft is the second Wichita Wrangler to earn that recognition. The other was New York Yankees' outfielder Johnny Damon in 1995.

With five games remaining in the Wranglers' regular season, in early September, Gordon was hitting .325 with 29 home runs and 100 runs-batted-in. He had played in 130 games. His on-base percentage was .427 and his slugging percentage was .588. He also had 22 stolen bases in 25 attempts.



Alex Gordon

## REMARKABLE IN RELIEF

Former Nebraska pitcher Brett Jensen's has been successful in his first professional season with the Detroit Tigers' Class A (short-season) team in Oneonta, N.Y. With less than a week remaining, Jensen had recorded 17 saves, with a 0.71 earned-run average. He had allowed just 16 hits in 25.1 innings, with 30 strikeouts and five walks. Opposing teams were batting .176 against him.

## BIG LEAGUE DEBUT

Former Cornhusker Shane Komine pitched six innings in his

major league debut with the Oakland A's in late July. Komine allowed the Toronto Blue Jays four hits and just one earned run, on a home run, but Huston Street couldn't hold a lead and Komine got no decision.

His second start was less impressive — four earned runs on six hits and four walks in three innings. His call-up was short-lived. After the second start he was sent back to AAA Sacramento.



Joba Chamberlain

## FINALLY A YANKEE

It took a while, but Former Nebraska pitcher Joba Chamberlain has signed a contract with the New York Yankees, according to Baseball America.

Chamberlain, drafted in the supplemental portion of the first round (No. 41 overall) on June 6, reportedly received a signing bonus of \$1.1 million, when he agreed to terms almost two months later. The right-hander finished 6-3 with a 3.93 ERA last spring, after going 10-2 his first season

as a Husker.

Chamberlain was among eight on the Cornhuskers' 2006 team to be drafted, including two who could have returned but opted to sign, juniors Luke Gorsett and Jared Cranston. Jeff Christy, Brett Jensen (above) and Brandon Buckman were seniors. Tony Watson and Ryan Wehrle (also above) were sophomores.

In late August, they were in:

Christy (sixth round, pick 186)	AA	New Britain (Yankees)
Gorsett (seventh, 226)	A	Stage College (Cardinals)
Jensen (14th, 412)	A	Oneonta (Tigers)
Buckman (19th, 586)	Rookie	Johnson City (Cardinals)
Cranston (34th, 1016)	A	Salem-Keizer (Giants)

## SOFTBALL PRO

Former Husker All-American Anne Steffen was among 19 players selected to the National Pro Fastpitch League all-star team, after finishing second in the league with a .400 batting average and a .472 on-base percentage. She helped lead the Chicago Bandits to a league-best 30-12 record.

Steffen also was an All-NPF honoree in her rookie season, 2005. Former Huskers Nicole Trimboli and Peaches James also played for the Bandits this season.

## FINISHING WITH MORE FOOTBALL, BRIEFLY

● For the second consecutive summer, senior Zac Taylor worked at the passing academy operated by NFL quarterbacks, and brothers, Peyton and Eli Manning. The Manning Passing Academy was held at Thibodaux, La., on the campus of Nicholls State.

● Fitting, perhaps, Taylor is on the watch list for the Manning Award. In addition, junior middle linebacker Corey McKeon is on the Butkus Award watch list and sophomore place-kicker Jordan Congdon is on the Lou Groza Award watch list.

● Junior Tyler Kester, a walk-on from Clearwater, Neb., was a punter exclusively until training camp, when he began working at cornerback as well.

● Athletic director Steve Pederson continues to strengthen the Cornhuskers' non-conference schedules. Nebraska will play a home-and-home series with Washington. The teams will play at Seattle on Sept. 18, 2010, and the Huskies will come to Lincoln on Sept. 17, 2011.

Previously, the Cornhuskers added home-and-home non-conference series with Virginia Tech (2008-09), UCLA (2012-13) and Tennessee (2016-17). They also will play Florida Atlantic at Memorial Stadium in 2009. Next season's non-conference schedule, again with three home games, includes: Sept. 1, Nevada; Sept. 8, at Wake Forest; Sept. 15, Southern California; Sept. 22, Ball State.

Counting the upcoming trip to USA, the Washington series will give Nebraska six games with prominent West Coast programs over eight seasons, a reflection of the Cornhuskers' recruiting emphasis.

● Former Cornhusker Ed Stewart was hired by the Big 12 Conference as Assistant Commissioner for Football and Student Services in late July. Stewart, a consensus All-American and the Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year in 1994, spent the last seven years at Missouri. ■



## Pounding The Rock

*A boulder sits outside the doors leading from the locker room as a constant reminder to the offense*



**Mike BABCOCK**

THE SUBJECT WAS option football during Nebraska's weekly news conference on the Tuesday before Nicholls State came to Memorial Stadium. Seriously, option football.

Not as it related to the Cornhuskers, of course, but rather to Nicholls State.

The Colonels run the option, "a fun offense if you just want to sit there and pound the ball all day," coach Bill Callahan said. "It has its qualities that are pretty unique and interesting."

Even though his offense is a far cry from an option approach, Callahan has studied it and understands it. The veer is an option variation, and his son was a veer quarterback in high school in Concord, Calif. He has "a little back-ground" in a veer offense, too, from his own high school playing days in Chicago. In fact, the veer offense remains "an emphasis" at the high school level, he said.

Also, when he was coaching in the NFL, during "down hours," he occasionally watched film of Air Force and Navy "to see what they were doing in their running game." The service academies have long used option offenses to compensate for size and recruiting limitations.

Running is synonymous with option football. But it isn't limited to that. Nebraska featured 1,000-yard rushers before Tom Osborne moved toward an option approach in the late 1970s, following the lead of nemesis Oklahoma. Regardless of how it is accomplished, the ability to run the ball is essential to a successful offense, as running backs coach Randy Jordan pointed out during training camp.

When the Oakland Raiders led the NFL in rushing in 2000, with Callahan as offensive coordinator, Jordan learned "you literally could take the will of a team away by continuing to pound the ball."

That's "the biggest thing" he learned from Callahan, said Jordan, who played running back. "When you run the ball, you can control the clock. You control the tempo of the game."

"It literally demoralizes a team when you can do things like that. So hopefully, we keep working hard and we can do some good things this year (in the running game)."

As you will recall, no doubt, the Cornhuskers didn't do good things in the running game last season. They averaged 96 rushing yards per game, the lowest in modern history — which dates to 1946.

In that context, Callahan emphasized the running game in spring practice and again during training camp. The theme in training camp, stenciled on T-shirts, was "pound

the rock."

A boulder sits outside the doors leading from the Cornhuskers' new locker room, beneath the North Stadium, as a constant reminder to the offense. Pound the rock.

Jordan decided to pound the rock by committee to start the season, utilizing four I-backs: Marlon Lucky, Cody Glenn, Brandon Jackson and Kenny Wilson. "Everybody says, 'You've got a hard job.' I don't have a hard job," Jordan said during training camp. "The best player is going to play."

"Like I told them, 'We've got enough depth that if you get tired, tap out. Get some water, and I'll put the other horse in there. Then, you get tired, and I'll put the other horse in there.' Those guys are really buying in, and that's what we've got to have to be a good running team this year."

The four "want to do well collectively, as a team," he said.

Whether the committee will continue remains to be seen. One or two might separate from the others. But Callahan's commitment to the run rests on their shoulders, as well as those of the line.

"We want to be more efficient in our runs. We want to make sure that when we get in a game, we go north-south and be able to get 4 or 5 yards so that we can stay on cycle with the play-calling," said Jordan. "We want to be able to call plays third-and-2, third-and-3, instead of third-and-10, third-and-11, so it will give us a chance to get another first down." And alleviate pressure on the passing game.

An option offense tends to be one-dimensional, a description that hardly applies to Callahan's system. That doesn't mean he can't appreciate an option system, however. In fact, "if I had my druthers someday, when I retire and go somewhere, we'll run the triple option," he said, laughing.

Another option question later in the news conference also elicited a laugh: Did he have a quarterback who could give a good option look on the scout team during the Nicholls State preparation?

"I don't think it's ever portrayed just exactly, but we do have a lot of guys who will be vying for that role this week," he replied. "But I don't want to disclose who that is."

The reason? "You'll want me to put in the option with him," he said. ■



**Running backs coach Randy Jordan started with a committee.**

*Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 25 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.*



## Business Is Booming

**USC had 11 players taken in the NFL Draft, but there's no need to feel sorry for the Trojans**



**Curt McKEEVER**

SO MUCH FOR THE THOUGHT that Southern California's offense will need some time to get rolling.

Even with 2005 Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush and fellow running back LenDale White having left early for the NFL, inexperienced quarterback Jon David Booty asked to carry the torch passed on by Heisman winners Matt Leinart and Carson Palmer, despite the fact he'd be operating behind a line that features three new starters, the Trojans opened the season with an easy 50-14 win at Arkansas.

No, it wasn't quite the slaughter that Leinart and Co. put on the Hogs last year, when USC scored four times in eight plays en route to a 70-17 victory. In that game, after eight offensive plays, the Trojans had gained 246 yards and scored four touchdowns. In the rematch, after eight plays they had 28 yards and 0 points.

But the ninth play resulted in a score and, with Booty reminding fans of Leinart's first start, USC added points on four of its first five second-half possessions while racking up 472 yards.

The 50 points was one higher than last year's team averaged en route to playing for a third straight national title.

"We've always been a football team," coach Pete Carroll said. "Our team has always been very connected, very close and with the nature of the three guys that have been Heisman winners, they have been extraordinary team players and have never rubbed their teammates' noses in it. I believe the following and the hype that goes with this is because we are in Los Angeles, we are a high-profile program that has won a lot.

"It feels quite different (now). There isn't the national following, there isn't all that buzz and talk about things that you really can't control that our guys dealt with magnificently over the years. Those are issues we don't have to talk about as much right now. We are about going about our business."

And business is booming.

Now set to play host to Nebraska in the Coliseum, Southern Cal has won 46 of its last 48 games. The Trojans would still carry top billing had they been able to slow down Vince Young during last season's Rose Bowl. Because they couldn't, Texas won 41-38 to deny the Trojans an unprecedented third straight national championship.

But don't feel too sorry for the Men of Troy, who had 11 players taken in last spring's NFL draft. Particularly with their situations at quarterback and running back.

Booty quieted the concerns about his ability to handle the spotlight much like Leinart did three years ago.

In 2003, Leinart, who had never thrown a pass in a college game, completed 17 of 30 passes for 192 yards and one touchdown with no interceptions in a 23-0, season-opening victory

at Auburn.

The fourth-year junior Booty had an even better debut, going 25-for-34 for 261 yards and three second-half touchdowns without an interception.

After going 11-for-18 during a first half in which USC took a 16-7 lead, Booty completed nine of 10 for 102 yards and three third-quarter scores.

Later, he said conversations that he'd had with Leinart on the day before and day of the game helped him relax.

"I remembered what Leinart told me," Booty told the Los Angeles Times, "that I had great players around me, that all I needed to do was deal."

Booty, who injured his shoulder and redshirted in 2004, entered last spring atop the depth chart only to aggravate a back problem during the first workout that required surgery. But Carroll still left him ahead of redshirt freshman Mark Sanchez entering fall camp, and Booty has maintained the edge.

Meanwhile, with Bush and the school's career touchdowns leader White now in the NFL, the Trojans are having to count on a young, but deep stable of runners.

Against Arkansas, C.J. Gable became the first freshman to start an opener for USC at tailback and carried a team-high 12 times for 51 yards. Southern Cal also got touchdowns from freshmen Emmanuel Moody (seven carries for 58 yards) and Allen Bradford (five-13). And junior Chauncey Washington, who'd been academically ineligible the past two seasons, picked up 55 yards on eight rushes.

"They are young and you might not know their names, but they are good," Arkansas coach Houston Nutt said after the game. "When they get the ball on the 45 or the 50, it makes things easy for them and hard on our defense."

Speaking of defense, USC's unit looks to be a lot better than the one that last season ranked 48th in total yards and 35th in scoring.

The Arkansas game was the first in which Carroll didn't coordinate the defense. After five years of doing that, he hired Idaho head coach Nick Holt last February. Against Arkansas, Holt's crew forced five turnovers and limited the Razorbacks to 287 yards.

The only thing to dampen that performance was a knee injury suffered to safety Josh Pinkard, the most experienced member of USC's secondary. Pinkard was injured while covering a punt with USC leading 44-14.

Nevertheless, "The defense came together, and we had a blast doing it," senior linebacker Dallas Sartz said afterwards. "We knew the offense would come out and do their thing." ■



**Pete Carroll is in his sixth season as head coach at USC.**

**Curt McKeever** is a sportswriter for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football, he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams. He can be reached at [cmckeever@journalstar.com](mailto:cmckeever@journalstar.com)



## RECRUITING THROUGH THE YEARS

# Allers Was

*Future All-American  
almost didn't come back  
after his freshman year*

**By Mike Babcock**

"If you'd set up a pattern of all the good qualities desirable in an outstanding offensive lineman, LaVerne would come closest to fitting the form."

— **Offensive line coach Carl Selmer,  
1966 Nebraska media guide**

**B**ob Devaney got a bargain in LaVerne Allers. And if not for Allers' mom, Devaney might not have kept the All-America offensive guard in the program beyond his freshman year.

The NCAA didn't limit scholarships at the time. But money could be an issue. So after his freshman year, Devaney told Allers he couldn't give him a full scholarship the next year.

"We'd like to keep you," Devaney told Allers. "But scholarships are tight."

So Devaney offered a compromise, what amounted to half a scholarship. If Allers could pay for room and board, he said, football and wrestling would cover the cost of tuition.

Allers headed home to Davenport, Iowa, for the summer and told his mom he wasn't going back to Nebraska. She disagreed. He was going back, she said. And he did.

In spring practice of his second year, after redshirting, he regained the full scholarship. He backed up John Dervin on the left side in 1964, then took over the starting job. He was first-team All-Big Eight in 1965 and a repeat first-team selection in 1966 — as well as a consensus All-American.

"I think I was good," Allers said recently. Plus, the Cornhuskers led the nation in rushing when he was a junior and led the conference when he was a senior. "But it's like everything else. You need good people beside you. You need people coaching you. And you need people promoting you."

Tony Jeter, an All-American end, was on one side of him in 1965 and Kelly Peterson, an all-conference center, was on the other side both seasons. Devaney and Carl Selmer coached him. And Don Bryant, Nebraska's sports

**Third in a Series**



LaVerne Allers was a two-time All-Big Eight selection and an All-American in 1966.

information director, promoted him throughout his career.

In addition, trainers Paul Schneider and George Sullivan took care of him. "You can only do so much yourself," said Allers. "You need people to support you. It was a great experience."

Allers lives in Portland, Ore., and is "semi-retired" after a working career that included high school coaching, serving as strength coach for the Oregon football team under former coach Rich Brooks and then designing "a very aggressive back-rehab approach" at a facility in nearby Longview, Wash.



# A Bargain



The 1962 freshman football team included: front row (from left): assistant coach Tom Osborne, freshman coach Cletus Fischer, student manager Ed Johnson, freshman coach John Melton, assistant coach Dallas Dyer; second row: Mike Heston, Bill Earl, John Abel, Fred Duda, Steve Schaefer, Rick Coleman, Henry Woods, Dennis Carlson; third row: Ron Poggemeyer, Dick Czap, Ken Lesar, Kelly Peterson, LaVerne Allers, Richard Berube, Leo (Duke) Papas, Everett (Buzz) Matson; fourth row: Earl Hefty, Tom Cotton, Rich Lucas, Paul Camastro, Walt Barnes, Bob Harms, Gary Parker, Bob Peterson; fifth row: John Bishop, Ed Pavoris, Paul Brochtrup, Mike Worley, Frank Solich, Larry Casey, Gary Brichacek, Martin Bartholomei; sixth row: Todd Showalter, Pat Murphy, George Welter, Stan Farrer, Dave Lebsack, Jim Skoczen; seventh row: Donald Strogmider, Ed Black, Richard Mahlock, Jim Anderson, Bob Riley, Freeman White, Tony Jeter, Louis Dillard; eighth row: Mike Rudd, Rick Myslenski, Jim Jones, Fred Leenerts, Dale Braddy, Richard Fritz, Larry Schmitzer, Tom Olson, Chuck Danish; and back row: Wayne Redman, Ted Vactor, Bill Haug, Jim Brown, Rod Franz, Mike Kennedy, Jim Osberg.

If not for a high school teammate in Davenport, Doug Tucker, Allers probably wouldn't have come to Nebraska. Tucker was a year older and went to Nebraska in 1961, Bill Jennings' final season as coach. When Devaney was hired to replace Jennings, he encouraged Devaney to recruit Allers.

Selmer contacted him, but didn't offer a scholarship right away. After Allers won a state wrestling title at 171 pounds, Cornhusker wrestling coach Orval Borgialli got involved in his recruitment, too. The idea was, Nebraska could get a talented, two-sport athlete for one scholarship.

In fact, the varsity football team was in the midst of two-a-day practices when Allers arrived in the fall of 1962. So one of Borgialli's assistants picked him up at the train station.

Devaney's first freshman class provided evidence of his skill as a recruiter. Allers was among four in the class who would earn All-America honors before they finished. Jeter, end Freeman White and defensive tackle Walt Barnes were the others. Jeter also was an Academic All-American.

Barnes, who came from Chicago, was nicknamed "Crazy Horse." "I tell you what, you put a helmet on his



## Recruiting list, 1962 (lettermen or on the fall 1963 roster)

Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Letters
John Abel, guard	5-10	205	Lincoln, Neb.	Frosh letter
LaVerne Allers, fullback	6-1	195	Davenport, Iowa	Frosh, 1964-65-66
Walt Barnes, center	6-2	227	Chicago	Frosh, 1963-64-65
John Bishop, center	6-2	210	Curtis, Neb.	
Gary Brichacek, tackle	6-0	215	Schuyler, Neb.	Frosh, 1964-65-66
Jim Brown, tackle	6-2	230	Omaha	Frosh, 1964-65
Dennis Carlson, tackle	6-2	216	Minneapolis	Frosh, 1964-65
Larry Casey, end	6-0	185	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Frosh, 1965
Rick Coleman, guard	6-1	192	Pittsburgh	Frosh, 1965-66
Tom Cotton, tackle	6-0	216	McCook, Neb.	Frosh
Dick Czap, tackle	6-2	225	Essexville, Mich.	1964-65-66
Louis Dillard, guard	5-9	180	Washington, Pa.	Frosh
Fred Duda, quarterback	5-10	183	Chicago	Frosh, 1963-64-65
William Earl, end	6-0	200	Summit, N.J.	Frosh
Bill Haug, end	6-2	200	Minneapolis	Frosh, 1963-64-65
Tony Jeter, end	6-3	210	Weirton, W.V.	Frosh, 1963-64-65
Mike Kennedy, halfback	5-11	190	Omaha	Frosh, 1963-64-65
Dave Lebsack, quarterback	6-0	177	Lincoln, Neb.	
Richard Mahlock, end	6-0	207	DeWitt, Neb.	
Rick Myslenski, end	6-2	187	Cleveland	
Jim Osberg, guard	5-11	200	Minneapolis	Frosh, 1965-66
Ed Pavoris, guard	5-10	210	Detroit	Frosh
Kelly Peterson, fullback	6-0	185	Cozad, Neb.	1965-66
Ron Poggemeyer, halfback	5-10	175	Nebraska City, Neb.	Frosh, 1965-66
Michael Rudd, tackle	6-1	202	Cleveland	Frosh
Steve Schaefer, center	6-2	202	Winterville, Ohio	Frosh
Larry Schmitzer, guard	6-0	207	Midland, Mich.	Frosh
Lynn Senkbeil, guard	6-1	195	Salina, Kan.	1964-65-66
Frank Solich, halfback	5-8	160	Cleveland	Frosh, 1963-64-65
Don Strosnider, center	6-1	196	Lakewood, Ohio	Frosh
Ted Vactor, halfback	6-0	182	Washington, Pa.	Frosh, 1963-64-65
Freeman White, end	6-4	210	Detroit	Frosh, 1963-64-65
Henry Woods, quarterback	6-4	210	Midland, Texas	
Mike Worley, fullback	5-8	210	Bedford, Ohio	Frosh, 1965
Bruce Wright, guard	6-1	205	Lincoln, Neb.	

**Note:** positions, height and weight as listed when recruited for one-platoon system



Frank Solich was one of the members of the 1962 recruiting class who went on to earn all-conference recognition.

head, his complete attitude changed," said Allers. "He was something else."

Allers changed positions at Nebraska. He was a fullback-linebacker in high school and played those positions on a Cornhusker freshman team coached by Cletus Fischer and John Melton. Tom Osborne was a graduate assistant, as was Dallas Dyer, a three-year Cornhusker letterman (1959-61).

The class also included Frank Solich, one of five others in the class to earn first-team all-conference recognition: Peterson, tackle Dennis Carlson and linebackers Lynn Senkbeil and Mike Kennedy.

Senkbeil, who lives in Lincoln, and Allers roomed together on the road and remain close friends. Senkbeil also sat out the 1963 season as a red-shirt. Devaney was ahead of his time in understanding the value of that, though injuries played a part. Allers

was bothered by back problems.

There was no reason for him to play his second season, however. Selmer told him the coaches wanted to move him to guard, where "they had so many other good, powerful guys," Allers said. Most prominent were starters Bob Brown, an All-American, and John Kirby, "another guy who doesn't get a lot of credit but one who I wanted to follow in the footsteps of. He was also unbelievable."

With a change in NCAA substitution rules, Nebraska went to a two-platoon system in 1964, so Allers just played offense. The Cornhuskers ran from an unbalanced line, with only Allers and an end to the left of the center, power football, "kind of like Green Bay (Packers) West," said Allers.

"Power right, power left, sweep right, sweep left."

In 1965, when he rushed for what was then a school-record 204 yards at Air Force, "Frank Solich got a lot of his yards off our side," Allers said. "Tony (Jeter) and I cleared some paths for him."

The 1965 team might have been Devaney's best prior his national championship teams in 1970 and 1971. The Cornhuskers were 10-0 and ranked No. 3 nationally when they played Bear Bryant's No. 4-ranked Alabama team in the Orange Bowl game. The Crimson Tide won 39-28.

Nebraska dug a hole from which it couldn't climb out, falling behind 24-7 at halftime. Years later, Ray Perkins, who caught two Steve Sloan touchdown passes in the first half, told a mutual acquaintance that "if we had played Alabama 99 more times, we probably would have beaten them 99 more times," Allers said. "It was just that one time. It didn't happen for us



in bowl games."

His senior year, the Cornhuskers would lose to Alabama again, 34-7 in the Sugar Bowl, after a 10-9 upset loss at unranked Oklahoma in the final game of the regular season. Despite the loss, Nebraska won a fourth consecutive Big Eight championship, with players from Allers' recruiting class.

The Cornhuskers were a combined 28-5 in his three seasons, after going 10-1 the season he redshirted, remarkable success considering they were 3-6-1 the year before Devaney arrived.

"Bob was always honest and up-right," said Allers. "He knew what he had to do to make Nebraska a good team and a national contender. Bob inherited a great group of guys, but he gelled them all together. I'm just sorry that we didn't give him a national championship when I was a junior."

Devaney did his best to take care of those he recruited, even if they didn't fit into the program, according to Allers. If they weren't going to have scholarships after their freshman year, he would try help them find other schools. Though he can't

remember which ones, he said, at least two of those in his recruiting class would transfer and go on to become small-college All-Americans.

Even though he "dedicated" himself to football, Allers wrestled some at Nebraska, too. "I was never in the shape I should have been in wrestling. It's a different type of sport," he said.

His junior year, about a month before the Big Eight Tournament, Borgiagli persuaded him to wrestle. In the final regular-season match, against Iowa State, he "was very lucky," getting a pin. He finished second in his weight class at the conference meet and qualified for the

national tournament.

Devaney recruited players who wrestled, too, because of their quickness and toughness. Senkbeil also wrestled, as did Carel Stith, a defensive lineman and friend in the 1963 recruiting class. The three joked that they had to be tough, Allers said, because of their names: Lynn, Carel and LaVerne.

It was more than that, however, as Selmer's comments about Allers in the 1966 media guide underscored: "He performs the way you like to have players perform, and he has determination, quickness, speed and strength." Those qualities were combined with coaching and support. ■

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# Doing His Job

***Brothers says he was just doing what he was supposed to on final play in bowl***

**By Terry Douglass**

**#21 TITUS BROTHERS**  
**JUNIOR CORNERBACK**

"Zack also came running and together, we joined together to make the tackle."

Brothers said he was always taught to never give up on a play. Heeding that advance paid off in the Alamo Bowl.

"Fortunately it came out well for us in that situation, but I'm always playing to the finish," Brothers said. "It's not over until it's over, so I feel like you have to play until the final whistle blows."

Instead of a crushing defeat, Brothers did his part to make sure Nebraska finished last season 8-4 and took a three-game winning streak into the 2006 campaign. Talk about a momentum-shifter.

It should probably come as no surprise that Brothers came up with a big play in the Alamodome. He played a starring role during his senior year at Judson High School in San Antonio, helping his team to a 14-1 record and state championship in Class 5A — the largest in Texas — in 2002.

As a senior, Brothers had 18 pass breakups, recorded 30 tackles and had two interceptions. He also scored a pair of touchdowns, returning both an interception and a fumble recovery for scores.

Brothers, who has ran a 4.4-second time in the 40-yard dash, also excelled in track and field in high school. He was the district and regional champion in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes and ran a leg on the school's district championship 400 relay as a junior, earning him an offer to compete in track at Texas A&M.

But Brothers ultimately decided he wanted to play foot-

If nothing else, Titus Brothers will always be remembered by Nebraska fans for his role in one of the wackiest plays in Cornhusker football history.

As keen observers may recall, it was Brothers and teammate Zackary Bowman who teamed up to push Michigan's Tyler Ecker out of bounds to end the final lateral-filled play of the Alamo Bowl. Nebraska came away with a 32-28 victory, but had it not been for the heads-up play by Brothers and Bowman, the result could've been one of the more bitter losses in Husker history.

"It's pretty cool, knowing that I was part of a play that people will probably always remember, but it felt good because I was doing my job," Brothers said. "That's all I was doing was getting my job done."

Brothers was the deep safety on Michigan's final desperation play. Despite all the chaos on the field, Brothers kept his eye on the ball and never gave up on the play.

"Zack came from the other side of the field, and he was watching him, but he didn't think he was going to get that far," Brothers said. "I was back in the end zone, just sitting there waiting and waiting. I saw the ball going back and forth, and all of the sudden, I saw a guy the guy keep running."



Scott Bruhn



ball and weighed scholarship offers from Nebraska and Texas Christian. In the final analysis, Brothers said he preferred the atmosphere and the level of competition in the Big 12 Conference and decided that Lincoln was the best place for him.

"It's kind of far away and it's kind of cold, but I just wanted to get away from home a little bit," Brothers said. "I just wanted to try something new."

Brothers redshirted in his first year at Nebraska, but played in the first three games of the 2004. Against Pittsburgh, he was forced into duty when the Huskers' two starting cornerbacks were injured, and responded with two pass breakups.

Last season, Brothers appeared in 10 games with his primary role coming on kickoff coverage. With Tierre Green limited by an injury, Brothers played most of the second half in the Alamo Bowl.

Although Brothers saw limited action prior to this season, the Alamo Bowl wasn't the first time he was involved in a game-winning play. As a redshirt freshman in 2004, Brothers had a pass breakup on the final play

of the game to help Nebraska hold on to a 24-17 victory over Pittsburgh.

"That's the type of player he is," cornerback Cortney Grixby said of Brothers. "Titus has been here for a while now, and he's played some spot roles and on special teams, but he's going to help us out a whole lot this year playing some nickel and some corner."

No doubt, the 5-foot-11, 195-pound Brothers would like to have an even more significant impact on games this season.

"I most definitely set goals to what I want to get accomplished," Brothers said. "Whether it's my footwork to being more coachable to going out there and being a leader — I have set goals for what I want to get done."

With Bowman and fellow cornerback Isaiah Fluellen already lost for the season with knee injuries, Brothers will likely have his best opportunity yet to move up the depth chart.

"Titus has experience, in terms of years and number of snaps in practices," cornerbacks coach Phil Elmassian said. "He's very loyal. Whatever his role is, he'll do it with

great enthusiasm.

"Hopefully, he can take all of those years and put them together to culminate into productivity."

Entering the season, Elmassian said he expected Brothers to play mostly in Nebraska's nickel and dime packages in obvious passing situations. Now, Brothers will likely have to play an even larger role in the Huskers' secondary this season.

"We want to have him as a contributor, obviously," Elmassian said.

Brothers said he's ready to play anywhere and anytime he's needed.

"My biggest thing is I love competition, and I love competing," Brothers said. "Even though it's tough sometimes being all alone on an island, one-on-one with a receiver, but that's how you get your status of what kind of cornerback you are."

"When it comes down to the last minutes, you know the ball's coming to your side and it's all about how you play it. It's very demanding, but it's what you make of it. I love the challenge." ■

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Bob Devaney, 1915-1997

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# 10 QUESTIONS

## with **MAURICE PURIFY**

**6-4/210 Jr. Wide Receiver**

**Eureka, Calif.**

**M**aurice Purify was surprised. He was flying to Lincoln in the summer, after making connections in Denver, and some of the passengers, Cornhusker fans obviously, recognized him, or at least, they recognized his name. "People knew who I was," he said. "So that was real nice."

"What really got me was, they were telling me about the school, and I got here and the coaches pretty much told me the same thing. So I was like, 'Oh, people are real honest around here.'"

Real honest and real passionate about Nebraska football, enough so that they knew Purify, a transfer from San Francisco City College, was a four-star wide receiver according to Rivals.com.

They might have known his statistics last season, too: 68 receptions for 1,318 yards and 19 touchdowns. And they might even have known he was an outstanding basketball player at San Francisco City College as well. Such is the influence of the Internet and the fanaticism about recruiting.

Purify has been as advertised. After getting a late start in training camp because of a delay in grade transcripts, he established himself as a tenacious blocker and a sure-handed receiver. He accepts the former. "That's just something you've got to do," he said. "As a receiver, when you pass, the running backs block, and when they run, you have to do the opposite; you block. You can't have one without the other."

Second-hand accounts of what he had been doing in training camp seemed to be justified in the first quarter of the Cornhuskers' 49-10 opening-game victory against Louisiana Tech. On third-and-9 from the Bulldogs' 41-yard line, Purify caught a Zac Taylor pass and turned it into a 28-yard gain to set up the first of Nebraska's seven touchdowns. "It was a rush. It felt good, my first college catch and then get to run a little bit with it, too. I knew it was coming to me. The ball got there real quick, right out of my break."

"But I could see it coming to me the whole way."

He heard the capacity crowd when he broke the huddle and went to the line of scrimmage. It's always that way. But after the ball is snapped, "I can't hear them at all," he said.

He had butterflies when he went out to warm up. By the time the team took the Tunnel Walk and the game began, however, the butterflies were subsiding. Seeing Nebraska's defense during practice for more than a month gave him confidence. "Our defense is good," he said. "I knew our defense would be better than their defense. That's what I was thinking, so it kind of made me calm down a little bit."

### **What's the best thing served at the training table?**

"There are a lot of good things, teriyaki chicken, steak, spaghetti. If I had to pick one, I'd pick the steak. They have it probably two days a week, well done. I want mine dead."

### **Who's the funniest guy among the offensive players?**

"Frantz Hardy, he's always got jokes everyday. He's an out-going guy and just nice to be around."



Scott Rubin

### **If you were a contestant on 'Star Search,' what would your talent be?**

"My talent, I don't know. I ride a unicycle. My friend had one, and I just jumped on and tried to ride it. You need balance and be willing to fall down a little bit."

### **If your life were made into a movie, who would you pick to play your character?**

"Ooh, these are some good questions . . . my character, Denzel Washington."

### **Randy Moss or Terrell Owens?**

"Terrell Owens, he's more physical, likes to do the dirty work, goes across the middle a lot more."

### **What do you think you'll be doing 10 years from now?**

"Hopefully, I'll be playing in the NFL and if not, doing something with my criminal justice major."

### **If you could spend 30 minutes with any celebrity, sports or otherwise, who would it be, and what would you talk about?**

"Any celebrity? Michael Jordan. I'd talk about just everything. He's my favorite pro basketball player. I got to go to the Golden State Warriors a lot. I've been a Golden State fan."

### **What do you remember about the first Nebraska football game you attended?**

"Well, I saw a lot of games on TV, but I don't remember them. The only thing I remember about the game I went to (on a recruiting visit) was how loud the fans are. The game was Texas Tech (last season), and even when I was walking back to my hotel, even though they lost, they were still kind of happy, saying, 'Oh, we did good; we were there. We almost won it.' They had an interception in the end zone, and the guy tried to run it out. I thought they would be all down on him. They were mad, but they weren't bagging on him."

### **What is the best movie you've ever seen?**

"I haven't seen a lot of movies. The best movie I've seen recently, I would say 'The Descent,' a scary movie."

### **What do you miss most about Eureka, other than family and friends, and if someone visited you there, what would you show them first?**

"The weather and the less humidity . . . I'd take them to the drive-in tree. It's a big tree with a hole in it and you can drive right through it. It's a little outside of Eureka, a big Redwood tree." ■



# Nebraska 56

# Nicholls State 7



Nebraska linebacker Stewart Bradley stops Nicholls State quarterback Chris Bunch after a short gain in the first quarter. Bradley had four tackles and recovered two fumbles to tie a school record for linebackers. (Photo by Scott Bruhn)



# More Lu

## *Sophomore prepares for trip home with his first 100-yard game*

**By Mike Babcock  
Photos: Scott Bruhn**

**M**arlon Lucky is a man of few words anyway. And he was not about to be drawn into making disparaging remarks about Southern California. Yes, the Trojans recruited him at North Hollywood High School. But no, he has no chip on his shoulder as far as they're concerned.

"It's not like that, not really," he said following Nebraska's 56-7 victory against Nicholls State. "I came here because I wanted to get out of the city. So I've got nothing against them."

He also didn't want to make more out of his return home than it was. "I'm excited, but it ain't nothing too big," the sophomore I-back said. "I'm there for like two days."

Of course he wants to do well, but not because USC is the opponent. He wants to continue to improve, which is why he was among those with up-front interviews after the Nicholls State game. As in the opener against Louisiana Tech, he was the first of the Cornhuskers' I-back committee to get the call. And he responded by rushing for 102 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries.

It was his first time over 100 at Nebraska. And he was pleased.

"I've been waiting since day one," he said.

Lucky rushed for 79 yards in game one this season, after running for only 129 yards total as a heralded true freshman, a five-star recruit according to Rivals.com.

He has picked up the pace since then. "Basically, this year I got in the playbook more and just looked at it every night and got used to it," he said by way of explanation.

Coach Bill Callahan acknowledged his development. "He's getting a good feel for the offense and the running attack," Callahan said. "I think from what I saw today, he's setting his blocks better.

"So many times when you're a running back and you're running downhill, you've really got to know how to set



Water sprays up as Nebraska I-back Marlon Lucky is hit by Nicholls State safety Toney Edison. Lucky carried 18 times for 102 yards to lead NU's "I-back Committee."

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

your blocks. You can't be too quick and you can't be too late. You've got to have the right amount of patience to where you allow your linemen to get on a defender and then you work off that particular block. So I thought he set blocks. That's a big goal of ours, setting the block.

"And his course set the blocks for those linemen today."

Given his play in two games, Callahan was asked if Lucky might be separating himself some from the other I-



# Lucky



backs in the committee: Cody Glenn, Brandon Jackson and Kenny Wilson.

"We love 'em all and we're going to continue to play them all," he said.

Glenn scored two touchdowns, Wilson one — and the junior transfer from Butler County (Kan.) Community College turned in Nebraska's longest run from scrimmage, 30 yards.

"They all have their different styles and strengths, and we try to work to that end, to mix in and balance up the attack so we don't become one-dimensional," said Callahan.

Lucky declined to rate himself and the other I-backs.

"I can't do that," he said. "I can rate the line. The line got A-plus today." ■

## REPORT CARD

### RUSHING OFFENSE

Nebraska's emphasis on running the ball more effectively was again in evidence. The Cornhuskers rushed for 261 yards, after rushing for 252 yards against Louisiana Tech. The last time Nebraska rushed for 200 or more yards in consecutive games was in 2004, when it ran for 363 yards against Western Illinois and 274 yards against Southern Mississippi. ★★☆☆★

### PASSING OFFENSE

Zac Taylor wasn't perfect. But he was close, connecting on 19-of-23 passes for 202 yards and four touchdowns, without an interception. And that was under less-than-ideal conditions. Much of the game was played in a steady rain. Taylor again spread the ball around, throwing to 10 different receivers. He was "very efficient," coach Bill Callahan said. "We just wanted to grind it out.

"With a bad weather day, handling the ball, throwing it, protecting, running the ball and having the great ball security we had, I came away really pleased from that." ★★☆☆★

### RUSHING DEFENSE

Nicholls State managed 187 yards rushing, but 80 of them came on three plays, including a 49-yard run by Grant Thorne to set up the Colonels' touchdown early in the fourth quarter. "Other than the big play, I was happy with how we played (defensively)," senior strongside linebacker Stewart Bradley said.

"We gave them some yards because of our mistakes." ★★☆☆

### PASSING DEFENSE

The Cornhuskers graded well here by default. "We really didn't get a chance or an opportunity to evaluate pass coverage because of the style of attack we were defending," Callahan said. Nicholls State attempted only three passes, all of them incomplete. ★★☆☆★

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Kick coverage left something to be desired in the Louisiana Tech game. It was better against Nicholls State. "Our coverage really improved today," said Callahan. "I thought that was one aspect we shored up. I felt that we came down with more physicalness. We came down with more temperament. Kids really rallied around, kept their lane distribution pretty well. We can always get better kicking the ball, no question about that. But overall, I like the coverage aspect of our coverage team."

★★☆☆★



# NEBRASKA-NICHOLLS STATE NOTES

## MOVING ON UP

Senior Matt Herian caught four passes for 38 yards and a touchdown, the 12th of his career. Herian now has 60 career catches to rank second on the Cornhuskers' career list. Jerry List (1970-72) tops the list with 61 receptions. Herian is two shy of the school career record for touchdown catches by a tight end. He already held the record for career-receiving yards by a tight end. His total is now 1,192.

Herian also moved ahead of Tracey Wistrom (1998-01) into 16th place on Nebraska's career-receptions list, regardless of position. Junior wide receiver Terrence Nunn, caught three passes for 22 yards to climb from No. 11 to a tie with Irving Fryar (1981-83) for No. 8 on the list, with 67.

## FIRST TIME FOR TODD

Senior fullback Dane Todd, who joined captains Adam Carriker, Zac Taylor and Brandon Rignoni for the coin toss, caught a 1-yard touchdown pass from Taylor in the first quarter. The touchdown was the first of Todd's career. "It's taken me about five years to get a touchdown, finally," Todd said. "It was something that Zac wanted to get me by the end of the year. I was a little surprised.

"I figured we'd run the ball down there, like we normally do."

## STARTING STREAK SNAPPED

Senior center Kurt Mann was sidelined by a viral infection, ending a string of 24 consecutive starts, beginning with the first game of his sophomore season. Brett Byford replaced him in the lineup. Byford, a 6-foot-3, 300-pound junior from Hartselle, Ala., had played in only one game during his Cornhusker career, against Western Illinois in the 2004 opener.

Byford responded well, however, according to coach Bill Callahan. "I thought the snaps and exchanges were excellent, whether it was out of the (shot) gun or whether it was from underneath (center), and the management of the communication was very good," he said.

Mann had a blood test but the results had not yet come back, said Callahan. "I just told him, 'Relax, get better; we need you.' We just want to get him healthy and get him back on the field as soon as we can."

Junior Jordan Picou and sophomore Andy Christensen moved up on the depth chart behind Byford. Christensen has been alternating at both guard positions.

Prior to the game, Mann was presented the Jake Young Memorial Scholarship for a second consecutive year. Mann was a first-team Academic All-American in 2005.

## DID HE LOSE IT?

Junior weakside linebacker Steve Octavien lost his Blackshirt the week before the game. Well, actually, he didn't lose it. "It's 'on pause,'" he said. What that meant was, because of "some things I have to take care of academically," he couldn't wear the black jersey at practice.

It wasn't an "on-field thing," he reiterated. "I don't want to give any details. I've just got to get that straight. It's just 'on pause.' It's not taken away from me."

## OUT

Isaiah Fluellen's move from wide receiver to defensive back was short-lived. Fluellen suffered an ACL injury on his first play against Louisiana Tech and has been lost for the season, as has middle linebacker Phillip Dillard, who also suffered an ACL injury on the same series.

Callahan was asked if Fluellen, a senior from Ramstein, Germany, could petition for a sixth season of eligibility. Callahan said he had talked with Fluellen's father, Melvin, as well as Isaiah and Nebraska would do everything it could. "But I don't know how they'll look at that."

Fluellen's redshirt was not required because of an injury. Dillard, however, played last season as a true freshman, so he has a redshirt available, without question.

The loss of Dillard caused some shuffling of linebackers. Junior Lance Brandenburg moved from the strongside to the middle, behind Corey McKeon, and Clayton Sievers moved to the strongside. Sievers also is taking snaps in some offensive packages as a blocking tight end.

## HALL OF FAME

The 2006 class of inductees in the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame included seven former Cornhuskers, although one of the seven, Mike Minter, won't officially be inducted until his NFL career concludes. Minter plays for the Carolina Panthers.

Those who were inducted over the weekend, and introduced at the Nicholls State game, included: Chris Dishman (1993-96), Bob Lingenfelter (1974-76), Christian Peter (1993-95), Jared Tomich (1994-96), Kerry Weinmaster (1976-79) and Tyrone Williams (1993-95).

Tomich walked on and earned All-America recognition twice. He, Dishman, Peter, Williams and Minter all played for teams that won two national championships (1994 and 1995) and three Big Eight titles. He also was elected a captain, as were Dishman, Peter and Minter.

Peter was among those who attended practice on the Thursday before the Nicholls State game. He described the Cornhuskers' current defense as a "crazy crew." He was "a little scared," he said, when he stepped in the huddle with the Blackshirts, joking that he feared for his life. ■



NU quarterback Zac Taylor takes off on a rare running play.

## NUMBERS

Nicholls State was 0-for-3 passing, only the 10th time in Cornhusker history that an opponent has failed to complete the pass. The last time it happened was in 1992, against Oklahoma State. The Cowboys also were 0-for-3 passing, in a 55-0 loss at Memorial Stadium.



## INJURY REPORT

Nebraska apparently came through without significant injuries. Starting cornerback Andre Jones had to be helped from the field with wobbly legs after a collision near the Nicholls State sideline with 5:58 remaining in the first quarter. That gave Cornhusker fans pause. But Jones returned.

Wide receiver Andre Jones is helped from the field after a collision.





ing play. He completed 19-of-23 passes for 202 yards and four touchdowns.

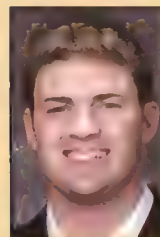


de receiver Frantz Hardy scores Nebraska's first touchdown of the second half on a 14-yard pass  
y, getting past Nicholls State safety Marcques Lewis.

# WHO STOOD OUT?

## OFFENSE

Consistency has become quarterback Zac Taylor's trademark. He became the seventh Cornhusker in history to pass for 3,000 yards during his career. Two games into his senior season, he has passed for 3,142 yards and needs only 175 more to move into the top five.

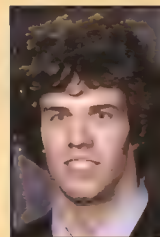


Zac Taylor

Taylor's first pass was incomplete. Then he completed 12 in a row, three short of the school record. He has thrown at least one touchdown pass in 11 consecutive games. His efficiency rating was 213.77, eighth-best in school history. And he achieved that number passing in the rain.

## DEFENSE

Senior strongside linebacker Stewart Bradley recovered two fumbles — to tie a school record for linebackers — and was credited with four tackles and one pass break-up. Because of the depth on defense, "it's amazing how fresh I feel," he said. "I used to feel like a 70-year-old man after games last year. We all see the depth and the guys making plays, and it just adds to the camaraderie."



Stewart Bradley

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Sophomore wide receiver Nate Swift joined junior Terrence Nunn to give Nebraska dual-threat punt returns. Nunn, the preseason All-Big 12 punt returner, averaged nearly 20 yards on five returns then gave way to Swift, who returned two for 49 yards, including a 33-yarder he almost broke for a touchdown.



Nate Swift



# GAME STATS

## SCORING

Sept. 9, 2006  
Memorial Stadium Lincoln, Neb.  
Attendance 84,076

	1	2	3	4	F
Nicholls State	0	0	0	7	7
Nebraska	14	14	14	14	56

### First Quarter

	NICH	NU
NU Glenn 1-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 08:02 Drive: 11 plays 53 yds 4:27	0	7

NU Todd Pass from Taylor 1-yard (Congdon Kick) 00:28 Drive: 11 plays 51 yds 5:21	0	14
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### Second Quarter

NU Herian Pass from Taylor 19-yards (Congdon Kick) 12:54 Drive: 3 plays 39 yds 1:20	0	21
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NU Lucky 1-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 00:23 Drive: 11 plays 45 yds 1:36	0	28
--	---	----

### Third Quarter

NU Hardy Pass from Taylor 14-yards (Congdon Kick) 10:07 Drive: 9 plays 77 yds 4:42	0	35
--	---	----

NU Purify Pass from Taylor 42-yards (Congdon Kick) 07:36 Drive: 1 plays 42 yds 0:28	0	42
---	---	----

### Fourth Quarter

NICH Cole 1-yard Run (Romero Kick) 13:33 Drive: 2 plays 50 yds 0:30	7	42
---	---	----

NU Wilson 14-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 11:03 Drive: 5 plays 76 yds 2:24	7	49
---	---	----

NU Glenn 7-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 05:07 Drive: 5 plays 49 yds 1:54	7	56
---	---	----

## TEAM STATS

	NICH	NU
<b>Total First Downs</b>	7	30
Rushing	7	17
Passing	0	12
Penalty	0	1
<b>Rushing Attempts</b>	47	50
<b>Yards Gained Rushing</b>	211	270
<b>Yards Lost Rushing</b>	24	9
<b>Net Yards Rushing</b>	187	261
<b>Net Yards Passing</b>	0	237
Passes Attempted	3	26
Passes Completed	0	21
Had Intercepted	0	0
Percent Completion	0.0%	80.8%
Yards per Attempt	0.0	9.1
Yards per Completion	0.0	11.3
<b>Total Offensive Plays</b>	50	76
<b>Total Net Yards</b>	187	498
Avg. Gain Per Play	3.7	6.6
<b>Fumbles: No-Lost</b>	7-3	1-1
<b>Penalties: No-Yards</b>	6-46	3-20
<b>Punts: No-Yards</b>	8-311	1-41
Avg. Per Punt	38.9	41.0
Avg. Net Punt	24.2	41.0
<b>Punt Returns: No-Yards</b>	0-0	8-117
<b>Kickoff Returns: No-Yards</b>	7-86	1-23
<b>Interception Returns: No-Yards</b>	0-0	0-0
<b>Fumble Returns: No-Yards</b>	0-0	0-0
<b>Miscellaneous Yards</b>	0	0
<b>Possession Time</b>	26:16	33:44
<b>Third-Down Conversions</b>	3-13	7-12
Percentage	23.1%	58.3%
<b>Fourth-Down Conversions</b>	1-2	2-3
Percentage	50.0%	66.7%
<b>Sacks By: No-Yards</b>	1-5	0-0



Nicholls State kick returner Lester Brooks (5) is brought down by NU's Corey Young (left) and Ben Eisenhart (46).

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### NICHOLLS STATE

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Thorne	3	65	0	65	21.7	0	49
McLendon	8	48	0	48	6.0	0	15
Morgan	8	36	9	27	3.4	0	16
Jones	7	20	1	19	2.7	0	6
Bunch	11	21	8	13	1.2	0	9
Cole	5	12	0	12	2.4	1	4
Montgomery	4	9	0	9	2.2	0	5
TEAM	1	0	6	-6	-6.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Bunch	3	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Moore	3	59	0	26
McLendon	2	15	0	14
Thorne	1	10	0	10
Brooks	1	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TD	FC	50+	In	20
Comeaux	8	38.9	47	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	Solo	past	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Edison	8	8	16	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	3	12	15	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bailey	1	6	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gisclair	2	5	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brooks	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Casnave	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ellis	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Vavala	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cooper	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lewis	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Perry	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Stone	1	2	3	1-5	1-5	0	0	0
Boggan	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Daniels	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dimak	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mims	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Noble	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ordoyne	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Simmons	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Vavala	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

### NEBRASKA

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lucky	18	103	0	103	5.7	1	12
Wilson	9	79	0	79	8.8	1	30
Glenn	11	47	0	47	4.3	2	15
Jackson	7	29	0	29	4.1	0	8

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Ganz	1	10	0	10	10.0	0	10
Taylor	3	2	5	-3	-1.0	0	2
TEAM	1	0	4	-4	-4.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Taylor	23	19	82.6	0	202	4	42
Ganz	3	2	66.7	0	35	0	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>80.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Purify	2	61	1	42
Herian	4	38	1	19
Peterson	1	31	0	31
Jackson	3	25	0	14
Nunn	3	22	0	9
Phillips	3	17	0	10
Hardy	1	14	1	14
Lucky	1	13	0	13
Todd	2	9	1	8
Erickson	1	7	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Nunn	5	68	0	27
Swift	2	49	0	33
TEAM	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Green	1	23	0	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TD	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener	1	41.0	41	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Congdon	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	Solo	past	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Carriker	2	4	6	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Octavien	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Green	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ruud	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Bradley	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Eisenhart	3	1	4	2-6	0-0	0	0	0
McKeon	3	1	4	1-2	0-0	0	0	1
Moore	2	2	4	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
Shanley	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Young	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cryer	1	1	2	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuhler	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Culbert	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Erickson	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Grixy	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Johnson	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Kadavy	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Potter	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Poulosky	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Rigoni	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Spain	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thenarse	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wilson	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0



## 2006 SEASON STATS

### RUSHING

	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	2	31	182	0	182	5.9	2	13	91.0
Glenn, Cody	2	24	135	0	135	5.6	3	18	67.5
Wilson, Kenny	2	24	134	8	126	5.2	1	30	63.0
Jackson, Brandon	2	10	65	0	65	6.5	1	25	32.5
Ganz, Joe	2	1	10	0	10	10.0	0	10	5.0
Taylor, Zac	2	5	11	5	6	1.2	0	8	3.0
TEAM	2	3	0	11	-11	-3.7	0	0	-5.5

### PASSING

	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	YD/G
Taylor, Zac	2	56	41	73.2	1	489	7	42	244.5
Ganz, Joe	2	6	4	66.7	0	80	1	31	40.0

### RECEIVING

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Herian, Matt	2	7	99	14.1	2	31	49.5
Purify, Maurice	2	3	89	29.7	1	42	44.5
Nunn, Terrence	2	8	76	9.5	0	18	38.0
Peterson, Todd	2	3	61	20.3	0	31	30.5
Lucky, Marlon	2	4	55	13.8	0	19	27.5
Swift, Nate	2	3	46	15.3	0	21	23.0
Hardy, Frantz	2	3	38	12.7	1	14	19.0
Teafatiller, Hunter	2	1	29	29.0	1	29	14.5
Jackson, Brandon	2	3	25	8.3	0	14	12.5
Phillips, J.B.	2	5	25	5.0	1	10	12.5
Mueller, Josh	2	2	10	5.0	1	6	5.0
Todd, Dane	2	2	9	4.5	1	8	4.5
Erickson, Dan	2	1	7	7.0	0	7	3.5

### PUNT RETURNS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	2	8	78	9.8	0	27	39.0
Swift, Nate	2	2	49	24.5	0	33	24.5
TEAM	2	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Bradley, Stewart	2	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	-0.5

### KICKOFF RETURNS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Green, Tierre	2	2	37	18.5	0	23	18.5

### PUNTING

G	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener, Dan	2	4	42.0	53	0	1	1	1	2

### FIELD GOALS

G	Att	Made	Lg	Blkd
Congdon, Jordan	2	1	0	0

### DEFENSE LEADERS

	G	Tack	Ass	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Carriker, Adam	2	3	6	9	2-8	1-7	0	0	0
Green, Tierre	2	7	2	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McKeon, Corey	2	5	3	8	1-2	0-0	0	0	1
Octavien, Steve	2	4	4	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bradley, Stewart	2	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Grixby, Cortney	2	6	1	7	0-0	0-0	1	1	1
Shanle, Andrew	2	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Eisenhart, Ben	2	4	2	6	2-6	0-0	0	0	0
Moore, Jay	2	4	2	6	3-16	1-10	0	0	0
Erickson, Dan	2	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon, Matt	2	0	5	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ruud, Bo	2	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Dillard, Phillip	1	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh, Ndamukong	2	2	2	4	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Turner, Barry	2	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Steinkuhler, Ty	2	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Young, Corey	1	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cryer, Barry	2	1	1	2	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
Jones, Andre	2	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Rigoni, Brandon	2	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

### TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
<b>Total First Downs</b>	60	20
Rushing	33	10
Passing	26	10
Penalty	1	0
<b>Total Net Yards</b>	1082	492
Total Plays	160	103
Yards Per Play	6.8	4.8
Yards Per Game	541.0	246.0
<b>Rushing Attempts-Yards</b>	98-513	68-254
Yards Per Attempt	5.2	3.7
Yards Per Game	256.5	127.0
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	62-45-1	35-13-1
<b>Passing Yards</b>	569	238
Yards Per Completion	12.6	18.3
Yards Per Game	284.5	119.0
<b>Punting: No.-Avg.</b>	4-42.0	15-35.7
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b>	4-2	11-5
<b>Penalties-Yards</b>	8-65	11-71
<b>Sacks By-Yds. Lost</b>	2-17	1-5
<b>Third-Down Conversions</b>	18-28	8-27
Conversion Pct.	64.3	29.6
<b>Fourth-Down Conversions</b>	3-5	1-2
Conversion Pct.	60.0	50.0
<b>Avg. Time Of Possession</b>	34:25	25:35

### Scoring

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Nebraska	21	28	21	35	0	105
Opponents	0	10	0	7	0	17

## 2006 RESULTS, SCHEDULE

1	Sept. 2	Louisiana Tech (0-1), W 49-10	1-0
2	Sept. 9	Nicholls State (1-1), W 56-7	2-0
3	Sept. 16	@USC (1-0), 7 p.m., ABC	
4	Sept. 23	Troy (1-1), TBA	
5	Sept. 30	Kansas (2-0), TBA	
6	Oct. 7	@Iowa State (2-0), TBA	
7	Oct. 14	@Kansas State (2-0), TBA	
8	Oct. 21	Texas (1-1), TBA	
9	Oct. 28	@Oklahoma State (2-0), TBA	
10	Nov. 4	Missouri (2-0), TBA (Homecoming)	
11	Nov. 11	@Texas A&M (2-0), TBA	
12	Nov. 24	Colorado (0-2), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
	Dec. 2	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m., ABC	

## SCOUTING REPORT

### GAME 3

#### At USC Sept. 16

Location: Los Angeles, Calif.

Enrollment: 32,000

2006 record: 1-0

Coach: Pete Carroll, sixth year

Series: USC leads 1-0-1

7 p.m. CDT, ABC  
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

### Quick Facts

USC has won 46 of its last 48 games. The Trojans went 12-1 last year, just missing an unprecedented third straight national title when they lost to Texas 41-38.

The Trojans were idle in week 2

after opening the season with a 50-14 victory Sept. 2 at Arkansas.

In his first start, junior quarterback John David Booty was 24-of-35 for 261 yards and 3 TDs. As a backup to Matt Leinart in 2005, Booty completed 27-of-42 passes for 327 yards and 3 TDs.

### Trojan to Watch

All-America wide receiver Dwayne Jarrett had 91 catches for 1,274 yards and 16 touchdowns last season as a sophomore. He was one of three finalists for the 2005 Biletnikoff Award and won the Touchdown Club of Columbus' Wide Receiver of the Year Award. In his career, he has 151 catches for 2,158 yards and 29 touchdowns.



## BIG 12 AT A GLANCE

### Saturday, Sept. 9

Nebraska 56, Nicholls State 7  
Missouri 34, Mississippi 7  
Oklahoma 37, Washington 20  
Colorado State 14, Colorado 10  
Kansas 21, UL Monroe 19  
Texas A&M 51, UL Lafayette 7  
Iowa State 16, UNLV 10  
Baylor 47, Northwestern State 10  
Oklahoma State 35, Arkansas State 7  
Kansas State 45, Florida Atlantic 0  
Ohio State 24, Texas 7  
Texas Tech 38, UTEP 35 (ot)

## ON DECK

### Troy Sept. 23

Location: Troy, Ala.

Enrollment: 22,000

2006 record: 1-1

Coach: Larry Blakeney, 16th year

Series: Nebraska leads 3-0

Time TBA  
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.





## TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

### NEBRASKA OFFENSE

WRB	QB	RB	TE	FB	FB
1	Nate Swift*	6.3	180	180	180
2	Frank Harvey*	6.1	180	180	180
3	Chris Patrick*	6.4	200	200	200
4	Bydon Mumba*	6.1	215	215	215
5	Joeg Austin*	6.1	200	200	200
6	Andy Chene*	6.1	200	200	200
7	Kurt Meno*	6.1	200	200	200
8	Brett Byford*	6.1	200	200	200
9	Mike Huff*	6.4	200	200	200
10	Jacob Hickson*	6.1	200	200	200
11	Matt Slagowski*	6.1	200	200	200
12	Carl Nick*	6.1	200	200	200
13	Matt Henne*	6.1	200	200	200
14	Josh Mueller*	6.1	200	200	200
15	Tarrence Nunn*	6.1	180	180	180
16	Todd Peterson*	6.1	210	210	210
17	Zac Taylor*	6.2	210	210	210
18	Joe Garza*	6.1	200	200	200
19	Dena Todd*	6.1	210	210	210
20	Matt Seneca*	6.2	210	210	210
21	Marlon Lucas*	6.1	210	210	210
22	Sody Glenn*	6.1	210	210	210
23	Jordan Campbell*	6.1	180	180	180

### NEBRASKA DEFENSE

DE	LB	LB	LB	LB	LB
44	Jay Moore*	6.4	180	180	180
45	Kerry Turner*	6.1	200	200	200
46	Ola Dagundun*	6.2	200	200	200
47	Nosmukong Soy*	6.4	215	215	215
48	Harry Geyer*	6.2	200	200	200
49	Ty Steinkunle*	6.3	200	200	200
50	Adam Carnika*	6.1	200	200	200
51	Zach Potter*	6.1	200	200	200
52	Shewart Bradley*	6.1	210	210	210
53	Clayton Slavers*	6.1	210	210	210
54	Corey McKaon*	6.1	210	210	210
55	Larica Brahous*	6.1	220	220	220
56	Bo Rudd*	6.3	220	220	220
57	Steve Odean*	6.1	210	210	210
58	Andre Jones*	6.1	190	190	190
59	Dave Brothers*	6.1	190	190	190
60	Terry Green*	6.1	200	200	200
61	Major Culbert*	6.1	200	200	200
62	Andrew Shanie*	6.1	210	210	210
63	Rickey Thonson*	6.1	190	190	190
64	Corbin Gasky*	6.1	170	170	170
65	Tyrell Spain*	6.1	190	190	190
66	Dan Trichter*	6.1	200	200	200

### USC OFFENSE

WRB	QB	RB	TE	FB	FB
8	Dwayne Jarmin*	6.1	180	180	180
9	Chris McCoy*	6.1	180	180	180
10	Sam Baker*	6.1	200	200	200
11	Nick Howell*	6.1	200	200	200
12	Drew Redovich*	6.1	200	200	200
13	Jeff Byers*	6.3	200	200	200
14	Ryan Kall*	6.1	210	210	210
15	Travis Draper*	6.1	200	200	200
16	Chilo Bach*	6.1	200	200	200
17	Alanti Mau*	6.1	200	200	200
18	Kyle Williams*	6.1	200	200	200
19	Charles Brown*	6.1	200	200	200
20	Fred Davis*	6.1	200	200	200
21	Dale Thompson*	6.1	200	200	200
22	Steve Smith*	6.1	190	190	190
23	Patrick Turner*	6.1	200	200	200
24	John David Boot*	6.1	210	210	210
25	Mark Sanchez*	6.1	210	210	210
26	Chauncey Washington*	6.1	220	220	220
27	Michael Coleman*	6.1	220	220	220
28	Ryan Powdrell*	6.1	210	210	210
29	Jody Adewale*	6.1	210	210	210
30	Mario Daniel*	6.1	210	210	210

### USC DEFENSE

DE	LB	LB	LB	LB	LB
90	Lawrence Jackson*	6.1	270	270	270
91	Alex Morrow*	6.1	270	270	270
92	Sedrick Ellis*	6.1	300	300	300
93	Travis Toft*	6.1	270	270	270
94	Chris Barron*	6.1	290	290	290
95	Phil Moala*	6.1	300	300	300
96	Kyle Moore*	6.1	250	250	250
97	Jeff Schwab*	6.1	250	250	250
98	Dallas Sartz*	6.1	230	230	230
99	Brian Cushing*	6.1	240	240	240
100	Oscar Lue*	6.1	240	240	240
101	Rey Mauajuga*	6.1	280	280	280
102	Keith Rivers*	6.1	220	220	220
103	Kaluka Malava*	6.1	220	220	220
104	Terrell Thomas*	6.1	190	190	190
105	Cory Harris*	6.1	180	180	180
106	Kevin Thomas*	6.1	180	180	180
107	Mozque McCum*	6.1	170	170	170
108	Kavin Ellison*	6.1	220	220	220
109	Mozique McCum*	6.1	220	220	220
110	Taylor Mays*	6.1	200	200	200
111	Antwain Peret*	6.1	200	200	200
112	Greg Woidneck*	6.1	190	190	190

## THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

# NEBRASKA vs. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

HUSKER RUNNING BACK COMMITTEE WILL MOVE THE BALL ON USC, BUT TROJAN AIR ATTACK NEEDS TO BE KEPT UNDER CONTROL!

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Iowa St. 27

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Iowa St. 31

Iowa 26,  
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Oregon 24

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Oregon 31,  
Oklahoma 24

Oregon 31,  
Oklahoma 20

LSU@  
Auburn

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LSU 22

Auburn 21,  
LSU 20

Auburn 22,  
LSU 16

Auburn 37,  
LSU 31

LSU 17,  
Auburn 16

Last Week  
Season

1-3  
5-3

4-0  
8-0

3-1  
7-1

3-1  
7-1

4-0  
8-0

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Scott Bruhn

With the locker room moving to the North Stadium, Nebraska now enters the field from a new entrance in the northwest corner of the stadium. Cast on the bronze Tunnel Walk gates are full-length raised artistic renderings of six Nebraska greats: Bob Brown (OG, Cleveland, Ohio, 1962-63), George Sauer (FB, Lincoln, 1931-32-33), George Flippin (HB, Stormsberg, Neb., 1892-93-94), Guy Chamberlin (HB, Blue Springs, Neb., 1913-15), Sam Francis (FB, Oberlin, Kan., 1934-35-36) and Bobby Reynolds (HB, Grand Island, Neb., 1950-51-52).



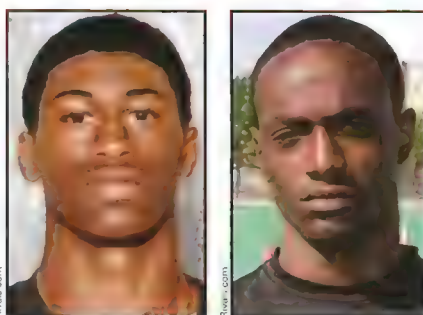
# Receivers in Texas

***With one wideout committed, NU looking south for more help***

**By Rick Shaw**

**N**ebraska has done a very good job over the past couple of years in upgrading its talent level at the wide receiver position. Young players, such as Nathan Swift, Terrence Nunn, Maurice Purify and Menelik Holt have helped transform the Huskers from an option style offensive team to a legitimate threat to score through the air.

However, the work is not yet com-



Ron Brooks (left) and James Kirkendoll, a pair of highly regarded wide receivers from Texas, are planning to visit Nebraska.

plete. Though the Huskers now have a number of athletes who can make plays in the passing game, they don't have as many as they'd like, or need, to have their offense truly dominate the offensive side of the ball.

Nebraska will likely look to sign another two to three wide receiver prospects for their recruiting class of 2007. In-state star Niles Paul commit-

ted to Nebraska during the first week of the year, and he is slated to start his career as a receiver in the Husker offense. Rated the No. 43 player in the country (four stars) by Rivals.com, Paul is, undoubtedly the "gem" of the early recruiting efforts. The 6-foot-2, 210-pound speedster from Omaha North tallied close to 300 yards receiving in his first two games this fall.

With Paul already in the fold, where will Nebraska look to score its other receiver recruits for this recruiting campaign? The answer, more likely than not, will be down in Texas.

Ron Brooks headlines a number of Lone Star State receiving threats taking long, hard looks at the Huskers. The 6-0, 170-pound Texas out of Irving (MacArthur) is scheduled to take his first official visit of the recruiting process to Lincoln on Oct. 20, to watch Nebraska play Texas.

## NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2007

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	Hometown (School)
Anthony Blue	DB	5-10	172	4.57	Cedar Hill, Texas
Quentin Castille	RB	6-1	234	4.6	La Porte, Texas
Jared Crick	DE	6-6	245	4.8	Cozad, Neb.
Demetrious Davis	DT	6-2	286	5.22	St. Joseph, Mo. (Benton)
Ian Harris	TE	6-3	217	4.76	San Antonio, Texas (Churchill)
Ryan Hill	TE	6-3	230	4.7	Arvada, Colo. (West)
Niles Paul	WR	6-2	210	4.4	Omaha, Neb. (North)
Shawn Sullivan	DB	5-11	182	4.4	Brenham, Texas
DeAndre West	DB	6-1	195	4.4	Oakland, Calif. (Wilson Prep)
Patrick Witt	QB	6-4	215	4.95	Wylie, Texas

For more daily recruiting information, visit [HuskersIllustrated.com](http://HuskersIllustrated.com), a member of the Rivals.com network.



Brooks, rated the 24th best player in the state and a four-star recruit by Rivals.com, utilized outstanding speed (4.4-second 40-yard dash) and athleticism to grab 51 passes for 793 yards and eight touchdowns as a junior. A first-team all-district selection in 2005, Brooks is currently entertaining scholarship offers from more than 20 Division I college programs, including Florida, LSU, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Nebraska.

One advantage that Nebraska holds over most other schools in this recruiting battle is the fact that they have also offered a scholarship to Brooks' teammate, safety Bret Harris. The two plan to visit Lincoln together in late October, and Brooks admits, that he'd like to go to the same school as Harris, if possible.

"I'm trying to get up to Lincoln and see what's going on," Brooks said. "I know that they (Nebraska) already have a good program, and they're continuing to build. Plus, I think I'd have a chance to come in and play early there.

"Another factor is that me and Bret are both trying to go to the same school, so if a school has offered both of us, that definitely plays a part in all of this. Nebraska and Arkansas are really the only schools that have offered both of us, and, out of those two, Nebraska is the only school on both of our visit lists."

Another four-star receiver prospect out of Texas, James Kirkendoll, also plans to make a visit to Lincoln. The 5-10, 178-pound blue-chipper from Round Rock, holds scholarship offers from Florida, Miami, Oklahoma, Texas Tech, Kansas State and others, in addition to Nebraska. He said that both the Huskers and Gators are in good shape to host him on campus sometime this fall.

"I haven't set anything up, but I know I'm definitely going to Florida, Nebraska and probably Miami," Kirkendoll said. "Those are tradition-rich schools where I have the chance to come in and compete. I know that of all those schools, they could each make the national title race."

Rated the No. 29 prospect in Texas by Rivals, Kirkendoll finished fifth in the Central Texas area in receiving in 2005. Boasting a 4.45-second 40-yard dash time and a 32-inch vertical leap,

## RECRUITING NOTES

# Productive Weekend

By Sean Stevens

**T**he beginning of the 2006 season on the field also marked the beginning of official visits by 2007 recruits. While Louisiana Tech was not a busy weekend for visitors, it certainly was a productive one.

● The Huskers played host to just three official visitors after two cancelled late in the week. Cancelling were Rivals.com four-star offensive tackle Martin Coleman of Huntington Beach, Calif., and three-star outside linebacker Brandon Herron of Sugarland, Texas.

Coleman orally committed to USC in April so changing his mind would have been a difficult proposition, however Herron has been a strong NU lean for months now and has said publicly that he just needs to visit Lincoln and will, then make his commitment. Herron's father was unable to get a flight scheduled; therefore they will reschedule their visit to later in the season — possibly for the Texas game.

Without those two, the Huskers could focus on 6-foot-3, 230-pound tight end Ryan Hill of Arvada, Colo., who had already committed to Nebraska, 6-1, 234-pound three-star running back Quentin Castille of La Porte, Texas, and 5-11, 206-pound three-star running back Roy Helu of Danville, Calif.

● After seeing the new facilities and experiencing game day in Lincoln, Castille, became the 10th commitment for the 2007 recruiting class.

"Yeah, I did," he said. "I told my uncle and my mom . . . they are doing my recruiting process (with me) . . . if I go to Nebraska and really like it, I want to commit early. I'm really excited. I liked everything about Nebraska."

Another factor for Castille was that the Huskers used all of their top four running backs while the game was still in doubt.

Last year as a junior, Castille carried 161 times for 1,203 yards and 11 touchdowns in Texas' second largest classification.

● Helu was also impressed during his trip, especially with the game itself. "When I was walking in the stadium I got goose bumps," he said. "During the Tunnel Walk, everyone was going crazy in the sea of red. I liked the offensive scheme coach (Bill) Callahan put together. It was really nice. They used a lot of different formations."

Although he rated the trip a "10" on a scale of 1-10, Helu said that he plans to make visits to Oregon, BYU and Cal before choosing where to spend his college years.

● Sept. 1 was also the first day that 2008 recruits could receive scholarship offers, and Lincoln Southwest offensive lineman Baker Steinkuhler wasted no time telling the Huskers yes.

The 6-6, 275-pounder said it was a no-brainer for him to commit to NU. "I'm really excited," Steinkuhler said. "That is what I really wanted. I'm real happy. My mom is real happy for me. It was what I wanted to do. I want to stay home, don't want to go anywhere else."

Steinkuhler's father Dean was a Husker all-American, and his brother Ty currently sits second on the depth chart at defensive tackle. Baker will likely be a top 100 recruit nationally for 2008.

His early pledge to Nebraska will probably lessen the number of scholarship offers he receives, but that does not diminish his skills. ■



Quentin Castille

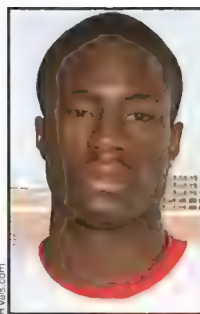
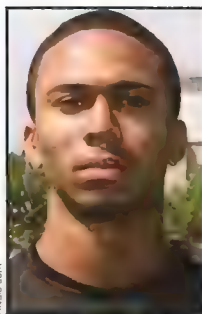


Kirkendoll shows an ability to make the big play whenever he touches the ball. He illustrated this ability when he recorded the longest kickoff return in school history (97 yards) for a touchdown against Austin Bowie last season.

William Cole, a small but speedy receiver out of Cedar Hill, already has strong ties to Nebraska. His teammate, cornerback Anthony Blue, committed to the Huskers in June. The 5-10, 165-pound Cole said that Blue is doing everything he can to ensure that the two continue their playing days together in Lincoln.

"I'd say Nebraska and TCU are the two that have moved up with me," Cole said. "One of my teammates, Anthony Blue, is going to Nebraska, and I could see going there with him. We've been real good friends for a long time, so when he tells me something, it carries some weight with me."

In addition to the Huskers and Horned Frogs, Cole also claims scholarship offers from LSU, Missouri, Oklahoma State, Arizona, Texas A&M and others. Rated the No. 47 prospect in Texas by Rivals, Cole said he hopes



William Cole (left) of Cedar Hill, Texas, and Hubert Anyiam of Garland, Texas, list Nebraska among their favorites.

to visit Lincoln with Blue in late October to watch the Huskers take on Texas.

Nebraska also finds itself among the current favorites to sign Hubert Anyiam, out of Garland (North Garland), to a letter of intent in February. The 6-0, 163-pounder earned district newcomer of the year honors in 2005, after making nearly 50 catches for more than 900 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Rated the No. 76 prospect in Texas by Rivals, Anyiam is entertaining scholarship offers from Colorado, Iowa State, Alabama, Arizona State, Texas A&M, Kansas, Michigan State

and others, in addition to Nebraska. He admits that he has a strong interest in taking a closer look at the Husker program.

"Alabama, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa State and TCU are my top five," Anyiam said. "I'll try to take visits to all of those places."

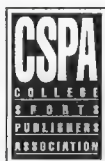
"They have a great football program at Nebraska. I talk to coach (Jay) Norvell, and I'm really comfortable with him and the prospects of him coaching me. I like Nebraska and their football program. I'm really interested in them."

In addition, Nebraska is also on the short lists of several other Texas receivers, including Jacob Amie (6-4, 224) of Tyler Lee, Curenski Gilleylen (6-0, 210) of Leander and Jonathan Jones (6-4, 189) of Fort Worth (Everman).

The odds seem favorable for Nebraska to sign at least one receiver prospect from Texas in February. Doing so will allow Husker coaches to add athleticism and depth to an already talented receiving corp. ■

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# She's Got the Keys

*NU's freshman setter Holloway is experienced beyond her years*

**By Todd Henrichs**

**A**t Nebraska, the list of setters who didn't go on to become All-Americans is seemingly shorter than that of the ones who did.

Such mystique at a position could be intimidating if you think much about it. Rachel Holloway, a redshirt freshman, understands that she's following in the footsteps of Greichaly Cepero, Fiona Nepo, Christy Johnson and others as the quarterback of the Huskers' tradition-rich volleyball program.

Yet, Holloway is charting her own course, and in doing so, she figures to one day threaten some of the most treasured records in NU history.

By starting Nebraska's season-opener against San Diego, Holloway became the first freshman to begin her career directing the Huskers in a one-setter system since at least 1983.

"I was a little jittery at first," admitted Holloway, who emerged as the starter after a battle with junior Maggie Griffin during preseason drills. Head coach John Cook informed Holloway that she had won the job only hours before Nebraska's Red-White Scrimmage on Aug. 26.

"He just called me into the office and said you have the keys to the car — some kind of fancy car, it's hard to remember," Holloway added, recalling the moment. "When I went home to shower, I called my sister Sarah, and said, 'I'm really nervous.'"

If there are any jitters over having Holloway at the controls, however,



Rachel Holloway became the first freshman to begin her career directing the Huskers in a one-setter system since at least 1983.



they aren't evident among Nebraska's players and coaches.

Even though Holloway should only be in her first year of college this fall, she is experienced beyond her years. Rather than move with her family from Colorado to Tennessee, she elected to enroll at Nebraska a year early and spent the 2005 season training with the Huskers.

Holloway is a decorated player internationally, having led the U.S. Youth National Team as its starting setter for two years. Under her leadership, the U.S. finished fourth at the Under-18 World Championships in 2005 in China.

And late this summer, Holloway was the heavily recruited captain of the U.S. Junior National Team that won the gold medal at the NORCE-CA Continental Championships.

"I said no to them three times

before because I wanted to be fresh and I wanted the summer to condition," said Holloway, who virtually walked off the court in Mexico and into practices at Nebraska last month.

"There were a lot of young girls and a lot of new girls, so I worked a lot on my leadership while I was there," Holloway added. "As it turned out, it was really fun to just play."

First and foremost, Holloway is a competitor whose athletic genes trace to her grandfather, a two-time All-American at Texas and a member of college football's Hall of Fame.

An older brother, Tillman, was an All-American lineman and a four-year letterman for the Longhorns, and Sarah, too, was a starter for the Longhorns' volleyball team as a freshman in 2004.

In choosing Nebraska over Texas, the younger Holloway became the first big-name setter in several years to commit to a program that hasn't produced an All-American setter since Cepero in 2002.

While it's too early to talk about All-American certificates in Holloway's future, her teammates say she likely has what it takes.

"She's a well-trained, gifted athlete, and she knows how to dish it," said

junior middle blocker Tracy Stalls. "She puts it in the wheelhouse, man, and it's fun."

Like Stalls, Holloway trained under coach Jim Miret of the Front Range Volleyball Club. Their connection was evident in Nebraska's opening matches of the season when Stalls, a career .290 hitter, hit .607 while averaging close to 3.5 kills a game.

Holloway's sets have made All-American Sarah Pavan even more of a threat this season. Against Long Beach State, nine of Pavan's 24 kills were back-row attacks.

"If she gets it high enough and far enough in front of the 10-foot line, I'm golden," Pavan said. "The ball was there every time."

For her part, Holloway says she's not good at saying good things about herself. That's likely to change, especially if Nebraska has more performances like the one against Long Beach State that Cook put in the category of "amazing."

"You can see she's very athletic and does some special things as a setter," he said. ■

**Todd Henrichs** covers the Nebraska volleyball team for the Lincoln Journal Star. He can be reached at 473-7439 or [thenrichs@journalstar.com](mailto:thenrichs@journalstar.com)

## SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 San Diego W 3-0

### Labor Day Tournament At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 1 St. Mary's W 3-0

Sept. 2 Middle Tennessee St. W 3-0

Sept. 3 Long Beach State W 3-0

### Players Challenge At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 8 Louisville 7 p.m.

Sept. 9 Cal Poly TBA

Sept. 10 Minnesota 2 p.m.

Sept. 13 Kansas 7 p.m.

Sept. 16 @Oklahoma 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 Iowa State 7 p.m.

Sept. 23 Texas Tech TBA

Sept. 24 @Creighton 2 p.m.

Sept. 30 @Baylor TBA

Oct. 4 Kansas State 7 p.m.

Oct. 7 @Texas A&M

Oct. 11 @Missouri 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 14 Colorado 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 @Texas 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 25 Missouri 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 28 @Kansas State 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 @Texas Tech 7 p.m.

Nov. 4 Oklahoma TBA

Nov. 8 @Iowa State 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 11 @Colorado 8 p.m.

Nov. 15 Texas A&M 7 p.m.

Nov. 18 Baylor 7 p.m.

Nov. 22 @Kansas 7 p.m.

Nov. 25 Texas 7 p.m.

**Nov. 30-Dec. 3**  
**NCAA First/Second Rounds**  
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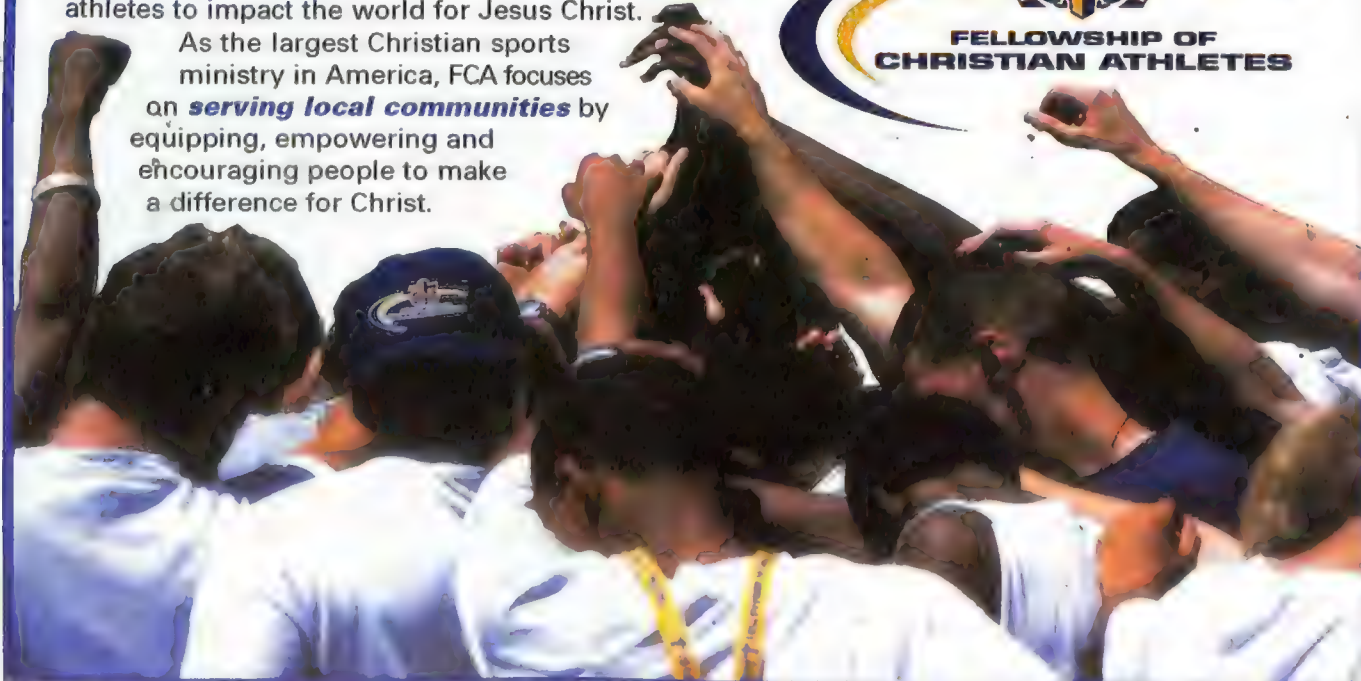
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# Off the Track

**1,500 runner  
finds success  
in cross country  
competition**

**By Katelyn Kerkhove**

**H**e may not be super man, but to Nebraska cross country coach Jay Dirkson, junior Peter van der Westhuizen is pretty close.

Deeming van der Westhuizen a "super guy" in all aspects, from personality, to talent, to drive, Dirkson is pleased that he was able to turn the 1,500-meter track and field runner into a potential top Big 12 Conference finisher.

What happened by chance a year and a half ago has turned out fairly well for the 22-year-old South African native.

"I went down to South Africa to watch a potential recruit, and I saw this guy in the 1,500, kind of young, but looked real good," Dirkson said. "I took note of his name, and then his dad ended up calling a former athlete of mine. The rest is history."

Before accepting the chance to run and study for Nebraska, van der Westhuizen attended the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

While there, he ran twice at the South African Junior Championships. In 2002 he placed third in the 1,500. In 2003, he moved up to second.

As a Cornhusker, van der Westhuizen quickly made his mark on the track, finishing 20th in the 1,500 at the 2004 NCAA National Championships and taking second in the mile and third in the 1,500 at the Big 12 Championships also in 2004.

But, for only the second season in his life, van der Westhuizen will once again trade the track for the dirt as he



Junior Peter van der Westhuizen was named most valuable runner last season, his first year of cross country competition. He finished 25th in the Big 12 Championships.

participates on cross country courses in his Husker jersey.

And hopefully it will go better than last year.

Changing up his running routine, van der Westhuizen experienced

compartment syndrome last fall. Developed out of the uneven footing on most cross country courses, van der Westhuizen suffered from the syndrome which causes pressure to build up in various muscles. For him,



his legs were affected.

While most people undergo surgery to tear the sheath around the muscles, van der Westhuizen elected to keep running, and soon, the sheath tore on its own.

"Obviously it was terrible on some days to go out on a 10-mile run, but if you really want to be successful in something, you have to push yourself past the difficult parts," van der Westhuizen said. "I always say that if it was easy, then everyone would do it."

It's probably true that most people would not run until their muscles tore, but according to Dirkson, it's just the type of person van der Westhuizen is — "super."

At this point in the cross country season, van der Westhuizen has suffered little from last season's injury. In fact, he is running his 80 miles a week just fine.

"The reason I do cross country is because it helps with track," he said. "This time of year, you do your base training, and cross country does a lot to give you a lot of miles and build your strength."

While cross country and track are

## CAPTAINS

Senior Bryce Dickmeyer from Fremont, Neb., is captain of the men's cross country team, while senior Kim Pancoast and junior Betsy Miller are co-captains for the women's team. Dickmeyer, a co-captain last season as well, is only the fourth men's runner in Cornhusker history to serve as a captain in consecutive seasons. He is the only senior on the men's team and has earned a place on the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll for six consecutive semesters. His cumulative grade-point average, in a mechanical engineering major, is 3.85. Miller, who is from Lodgepole, Neb., has had a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in a biological sciences major for three consecutive semesters. She was Nebraska's most improved runner in 2005. Pancoast, from Cape Girardeau, Mo., is only the fifth Husker to serve as a captain twice.

## FAST START

The Huskers opened by winning both men's and women's titles at the Creighton/UNO Classic in Omaha for a second consecutive season. The men took the top five places, while the women had five of the top seven finishers. Sophomores Kyle Custer and Ari Goldstein were the first-place finishers.

Nebraska had a week off before resuming in the 17th annual Woody Greeno/Nebraska Invitational in Lincoln, the lone home meet. The Big 12 Championships are scheduled for Oct. 27 at Lawrence, Kan., with the NCAA Midwest Regional at St. Paul, Minn., on Nov. 11 and the NCAA Championships at Terre Haute, Ind., on Nov. 20. The Husker women will try to improve on a fifth-place regional finish in 2005.

very different in the types of races they are, van der Westhuizen has embraced the cross country course this season more than ever before.

He said he enjoys the more aggressive competition of cross country and the way he has to push himself through the varying courses.

Hoping to improve on his times this fall and stay away from injuries,

van der Westhuizen is heading into his next year of competition optimistic.

"His first love is track, and all this training is a continuum. It's a year-round plan and being ready for what he needs to be ready for at the right time — track," Dirkson said. "But he's also a really outstanding longer-distance runner." ■

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## ACROSS

- 1 No. 1 punter
- 4 Leading tackler vs. Louisiana Tech
- 10 Linebacker injured in opener
- 13 1983 Outland Trophy winner
- 14 Chicago Bears safety from NU
- 16 Threw his first TD pass vs. Louisiana Tech
- 17 Ex-Husker on Tampa Bay staff
- 19 2005 national champion
- 23 New Orleans Saints safety from NU
- 24 Wide receivers coach
- 26 Played offense and defense vs. Louisiana Tech
- 28 Leading receiver (catches) vs. Louisiana Tech
- 29 Safeties coach
- 30 Team Tommie Frazier coaches

## DOWN

- 2 USC head coach
- 3 Wears No. 16
- 5 Team Turner Gill coaches
- 6 Wears No. 41
- 7 Tight ends coach
- 8 Leading rusher vs. Louisiana Tech
- 9 Leading receiver (yardage) vs. Louisiana Tech
- 11 USC campus location
- 12 USC nickname
- 15 Carolina Panthers safety from NU
- 18 Cornerback injured in opener
- 20 Network for NU-USC game
- 21 Defensive line coach
- 22 Wears No. 25
- 25 Holder for place-kicks
- 27 Intercepted a pass vs. Louisiana Tech

Answers in Sept. 23 issue



## HUSKERNUTZ



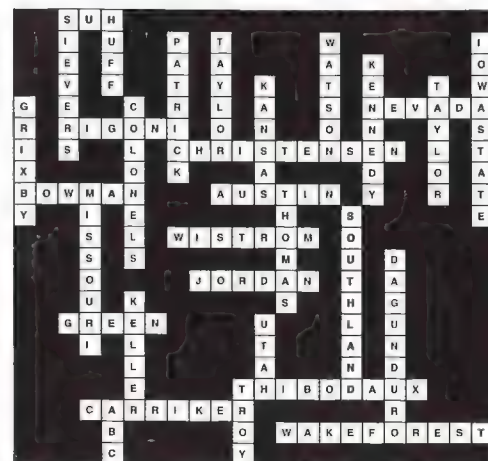
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## SEPT. 9 CROSSWORD SOLUTION







Grant Wistrom — Seattle Seahawks

# EX-HUSKERS IN THE NFL



Will Shields — Kansas City Chiefs

**Sources: Huskers.com, NFL.com**

Player	Team	Pos.	Yr.	No.
Ryon Bingham	San Diego Chargers	DT	3	97
Josh Brown	Seattle Seahawks	PK	4	3
Kris Brown	Houston Texans	PK	8	3
Mike Brown	Chicago Bears	SS	7	30
Ralph Brown	Cleveland Browns	CB	7	20
Correll Buckhalter	Philadelphia Eagles	RB	6	28
Daniel Bullocks	Detroit Lions	FS	R	27
Josh Bullocks	New Orleans Saints	FS	2	29
Ahman Green	Green Bay Packers	RB	9	30
DeJuan Groce	New Orleans Saints	CB	4	28
Russ Hochstein	New England Patriots	C/G	6	71
Richie Incognito	St. Louis Rams	G	2	68
Trevor Johnson	New York Jets	DE	3	97
Chris Kelsay	Buffalo Bills	DE	4	90
Sam Koch	Baltimore Ravens	P	R	4
Kyle Larson	Cincinnati Bengals	P	3	19
Mike Minter	Carolina Panthers	FS	10	30
Carlos Polk	San Diego Chargers	LB	6	52
Dominic Raiola	Detroit Lions	C	6	51
Cory Ross	Baltimore Ravens	RB	R	40
Mike Rucker	Carolina Panthers	DE	8	93
Barrett Ruud	Tampa Bay Bucs	LB	2	51
Cory Schlesinger	Detroit Lions	FB	12	30
Scott Shanle	New Orleans Saints	LB	4	58
Will Shields	Kansas City Chiefs	G	14	68
Le Kevin Smith	New England Patriots	DT	R	90
Adam Treu	Oakland Raiders	C	10	62
Kyle Vanden Bosch	Tennessee Titans	DE	6	93
Fabian Washington	Oakland Raiders	CB	2	27
Zach Wiegert	Houston Texans	OT	12	72
Demorrio Williams	Atlanta Falcons	LB	3	51
Grant Wistrom	Seattle Seahawks	DE	9	98



# Heading West

*With the preliminaries over,  
Nebraska turns its full attention to USC*



**Mike  
BABCOCK**

THE RESPONSE was predictable. The question needn't have been asked.

"So Bill, even though the focus is on Nicholls State, they're all thinking toward next week," a television reporter asked during the Nebraska football team's news conference on the Tuesday before the Cornhuskers' game against NCAA Division I-AA Nicholls State.

"Bill" was Nebraska coach Bill Callahan. "They" were his players. And "next week" was a reference to Nebraska's game against Southern California at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

"Do you have . . ." the reporter began. But Callahan interrupted.

"Who is? Tell me who is 'all.' Who have you been talking to?" he said.

His team was focused on Nicholls State, period, end of discussion.

"Believe me when I tell you this, our senior leadership, our kids have been great about focus," said Callahan. "The only thing we've been harping on continually in the preseason is maintaining a one-game-at-a-time approach. There's no sense of worrying about anything.

"They can't control it anyhow until we get to that point."

And they wouldn't reach that point until the Nicholls State game was over.

Another reporter chimed in. Would the coaches include any "USC stuff" in practice? Again Callahan was adamant. "No, none whatsoever, no, no," he said. "This game is strictly, totally about Nicholls State. It has nothing to do with USC. We'll handle USC when we get to USC.

"I want to be very clear about that."

Be assured that USC was on the minds of Cornhusker fans, as well as on the minds of reporters. The game has been a topic of conversation almost from the day Callahan was introduced as coach.

Back then, folks lamented about what was going to happen when Nebraska traveled to Los Angeles in two years. USC was a defending national champion at the time and would win another title. Now, they've begun to believe the Cornhuskers could pull an upset. And the belief is justified.

Still, the Trojans present a formidable challenge for a program on the rise, but a program not where it is likely to be with a growing confidence and a couple of more recruiting classes.

Nebraska is a work in progress. USC is a finished product, replacing talented players with more talented players, doing as Nebraska once did, reloading rather than rebuilding.

"They're one of the best teams in the country," Cornhusker cornerback Cortney Grixby said. But "we feel like we're one of the best, too, and we feel our talent can match up against theirs."

How Nebraska's inexperienced secondary matches up against USC's receivers is among questions to be answered in the nationally televised game, a once commonplace experience for the Cornhuskers. But they haven't played in prime time for a while — excluding the Alamo Bowl game anyway.

Mindset is important, if not essential, to hopes of victory. "Definitely, you have to have the right attitude that you can play with a great team like USC," said Nebraska strong safety Pierre Green. "You have to believe you can win. You can't go into a game with a team like USC with doubt.

"That's one of our foundations of the pyramid for success. Belief is a cornerstone. You have to believe the coaches have put us in the right positions and trust each man to do his job."

Grixby has a similar attitude, and dismisses concerns about the Cornhusker secondary, that it will be victimized by USC's passing attack. "We talk with pads. We talk on the field," he said.

"It's going to be a challenge, but all the football experts, the so-called experts . . . if they were football experts then they'd have Coach Callahan's job. So we're just ready to go and play."

While Grixby, Green and their teammates were making short work of out-manned Nicholls State, USC was taking a week off after an impressive opening-game victory at Arkansas.

The Trojans were ranked third in both polls going into the weekend.

"We respect them, the caliber of team they are, where they're at," Grixby said. "We just want to go out there, compete, play well and come back with the victory."

After the Nicholls State game, a reporter reiterated the question posed to Callahan on Tuesday. Had he been at all concerned that his players might have been looking ahead to the USC game?

"No, not at all, no; again, this group of players and leadership is well focused. We practiced hard. I didn't see anybody backing off or taking it easy, lightening the load or whatever you want to call it," he said. "I didn't see that. Our kids practiced hard throughout the week. We had good focus."

And "they're beginning to build some confidence in what we're doing," he said.

Now, USC has their full attention, with Callahan's blessing.

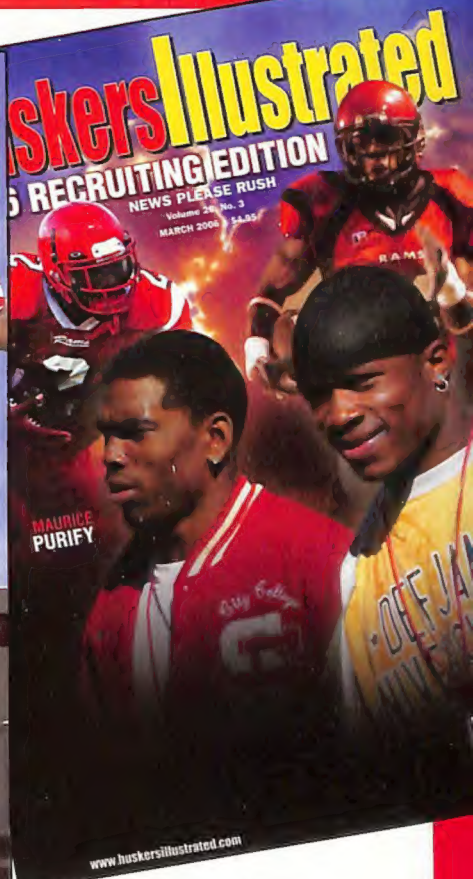
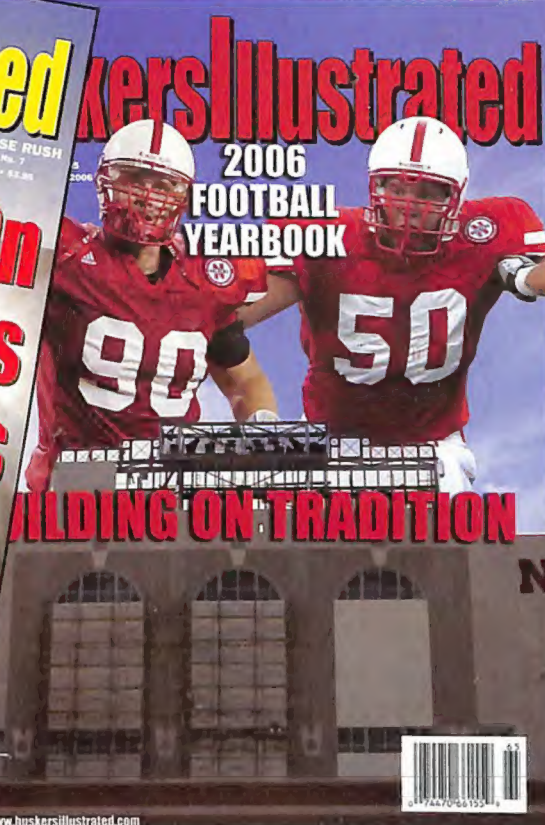
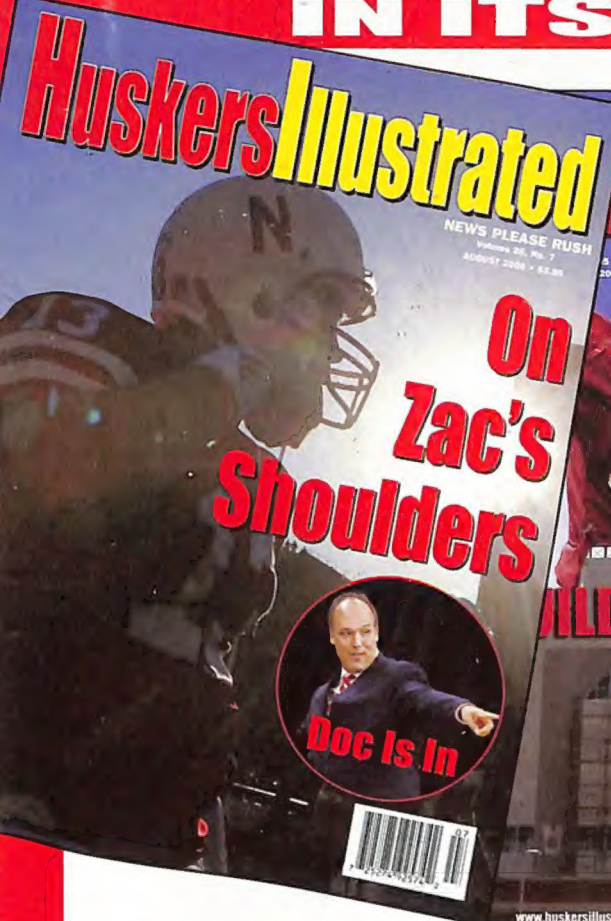
At long last THE game is at hand. ■



**Coach Bill Callahan insisted that NU wasn't looking ahead.**



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